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AMMAN SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 1993 THUL HIJEH 1413

Prince Hassan, Princess Sarvath return home

AMMAN (Petra) — Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath returned home Friday evening after concluding a several-day private visit to Britain. Their Royal Highnesses Prince Faisal and Princess Alia Al Faisal received Prince Faisal and Princess Sarvath, who were also welcomed at the airport by the prime minister and speakers of the Lower and Upper Houses of Parliament, the Chief of the Royal Court, the British ambassador to Jordan and other high-ranking officials.

Rockets fired at Israeli-held zone

TYRE (AFP) — Guerrillas Friday fired rockets at positions held by the Israeli army and its allied militia in South Lebanon, the third such attack in 24 hours, security sources said. Two rockets targeted positions held by the army and the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia at Achiye in Israel's self-declared "security zone," they said. Seven B-7 antitank rockets were also fired minutes later. No casualties were reported. The Israeli army retaliated by firing 22 mortar shells on hills surrounding the "security zone," the sources said.

Lebanon demands U.S. cancel ban

BEIRUT (R) — Beirut demanded Friday that Washington cancel its order for airlines to stop U.S. sales of tickets to Lebanon and suggested Israel might be behind the American move. The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) on Thursday ordered U.S. and foreign airlines to halt sale of tickets to Lebanon and to refund money to passengers who have bought them. "We do not want to compete with the American government over enforcing its regulations but we demand that it cancel this decision," Lebanese Transport Minister Oumar Miskaw told reporters.

U.S. signs Biodiversity Treaty

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United States Friday dropped a year of opposition and signed the Biodiversity Treaty designed to protect the world's disappearing plant and animal species. Former President George Bush had refused to sign the convention at the Earth summit in Rio de Janeiro last year, breaking with the European Community, Japan and more than 150 other nations that signed the agreement.

Family barred from visiting Saudi activist

NICOSIA (AFP) — Saudi authorities have banned family members from visiting the jailed spokesman for a new Saudi human rights group denounced by Riyadh, the Liberty Organisation has said. Since the spokesman for the Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights (CDLR), Mohammad Al Masaari, was detained May 15, "neither his wife nor his parents have been able to visit him or contact him," Liberty said. Liberty, a London-based organisation specialising in the defence of human rights in the Muslim world, said it was quoting Sheikh Abdullah Al Masaari, the CDLR secretary general and Mohammad's father. He also denied rumors his son had been released.

French immigration official quits

PARIS (R) — The head of France's International Migration Office (OMI) has resigned in protest, warning that the new conservative government's clampdown on immigration could lead to attacks on foreigners. Pierre-Louis Remy said in a resignation letter published by French newspapers on Friday: "I disagree with the general tone of the bills presented (to parliament) and the statements which accompany them." Citing statements by hardline Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, he wrote: "I fear the assertion that we should aim for zero immigration, will hinder the integration of foreigners who are legally resident in France today."

Security Council votes to protect Bosnia havens

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The Security Council voted Friday to send heavily-armed troops to protect six Muslim enclaves in Bosnia-Herzegovina despite scepticism by several members that the plan would stop Serb offensives.

European sponsors of the resolution hope at least 5,000 additional troops, backed by air power, can be found to guard the capital of Sarajevo and the towns of Tuzla, Zepa, Srebrenica, Gorazde and Bihac.

The vote was 13-0 with two abstentions, Pakistan and Venezuela.

Bosnia's ambassador, Mohammad Sacirbey, delivered a blistering speech to the council before the vote. He said the council was creating an "incomprehensible scenario" by sending troops only to six cities, thereby creating "new non-safe areas."

"U.N. forces will be mostly defending ghost towns or succumb to the evil will of Serbian forces," Mr. Sacirbey predicted.

Many members from developing countries agree with Bosnia's Muslim government that the United Nations should take even tougher action. They say setting up U.N.-guarded regions will

confine a million Moslems to ghettos and recognise Serb territorial gains.

Diego Arria, Venezuela's ambassador, mocked the goals of the operation by quoting a U.N. spokesman in Bosnia as recommending posting a sign outside Gorazde reading, "very dangerous safe area, keep out."

The United States, France, Britain, Spain and Russia argue, however, that the safe havens are only temporary, meant to save lives pending a political settlement.

Deployment of the troops is months away, in part because the council will have to pass another resolution when Secretary-General Boutros Ghali makes recommendations about how many are needed and other operational details.

The British ambassador warned against building high expectations.

"This resolution is not a magic wand. It isn't going to cast a mantle over the safe areas tomorrow, the minute after it's adopted. But it does, in the view of my government, represent a clear step in the direction of making the safe areas safer than they are now," Sir David Hannay

said.

Bosnian Serbs have also failed to honour a ceasefire Mr. Karadzic said be declared Thursday in Gorazde, according to Radio Sarajevo reports.

told reporters late Thursday. In Sarajevo, U.N. envoy Thorvald Stoltenberg said Bosnian Serbs had failed to honour a deadline of noon Friday (1000 GMT) for letting U.N. military observers into Gorazde.

He said the agreement had been reached at a meeting he and European Community (EC) negotiator for the former Yugoslavia Lord Owen had Thursday with Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic in Pale, 15 kilometres southeast of Sarajevo.

"Not to allow U.N. military observers into the area is very bad sign and does not give hope for future efforts to help the population in this area," Mr. Stoltenberg told reporters here.

Gorazde, 50 kilometres southeast of Sarajevo, is a U.N.-declared safe area from which the Serbs have blocked U.N. military and humanitarian officials while since May 28 they have pursued an offensive on the area.

Bosnian Serbs have also failed to honour a ceasefire Mr. Karadzic said be declared Thursday in Gorazde, according to Radio Sarajevo reports.

Jordan expects Arab-Israeli peace agreements before end of this year

By Jane Arraf Reuter

AMMAN — Jordan's new prime minister said Thursday he expected Israel and its Arab neighbours to come to terms at Middle East peace talks by the end of this year.

Abdul Salam Al Majali, asked if he thought Israel and Jordan would reach an agreement by the time his mandate expires in November, told Reuters in an interview: "I am optimistic. I feel that this will come not just for Jordan."

Dr. Majali, who has led Jordan's delegation to all nine rounds of peace talks, was appointed by King Hussein Saturday to head a new government until elections in November, the first multi-party elections in Jordan in three decades.

He also serves as foreign minister and defence minister in the temporary government, which has the task of pushing through economic reforms and showing that Jordan is committed to the peace process, which is opposed by most of Jordan's parliament.

He said the Arabs would not back out of the talks because they had made a firm commitment to keep negotiating.

"I think the Arabs have taken this decision quite clearly. I don't think they will go back on it," he said when asked whether the peace talks had enough momentum to keep the Arabs engaged.

He said that while some progress had been made in the last 18



Abdul Salam Majali

months, a breakthrough depended on Israel.

Dr. Majali said he believed that ordinary Jordanians would abandon hostile attitudes towards Israel once peace was achieved.

"We have never been against Jews as Jews — on the contrary our religion (Islam) asks us to respect them, to respect Christians. Once politics are clear and we have peace certainly attitudes are going to change," he said.

On Sunday, Dr. Majali, a British-educated physician, will host a meeting of foreign ministers from key Arab states as well as the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). The ministers are expected to announce a decision to continue the talks in Washington in mid-June.

"I think in the last 18 months things did progress — they did not progress at same pace on all tracks," Dr. Majali said of the peace process so far.

He said he would keep trying to reach a rapprochement with Gulf Arab states estranged by Jordan's sympathy for Iraq during the Gulf war. Iraq and Iran should be dealt with through cooperation rather than confrontation, he added.

"If you corner any person, no matter how weak he is, he becomes a lion," Dr. Majali said, referring to Western plans to isolate Iraq.

"We would like to be on good relations with our neighbours, with the Gulf, with Saudi Arabia in particular," he said.

Dr. Majali said he had not, however, yet seen any concrete signs of warmer relations with Riyadh, once a major donor.

U.N. begins new Iraq mission

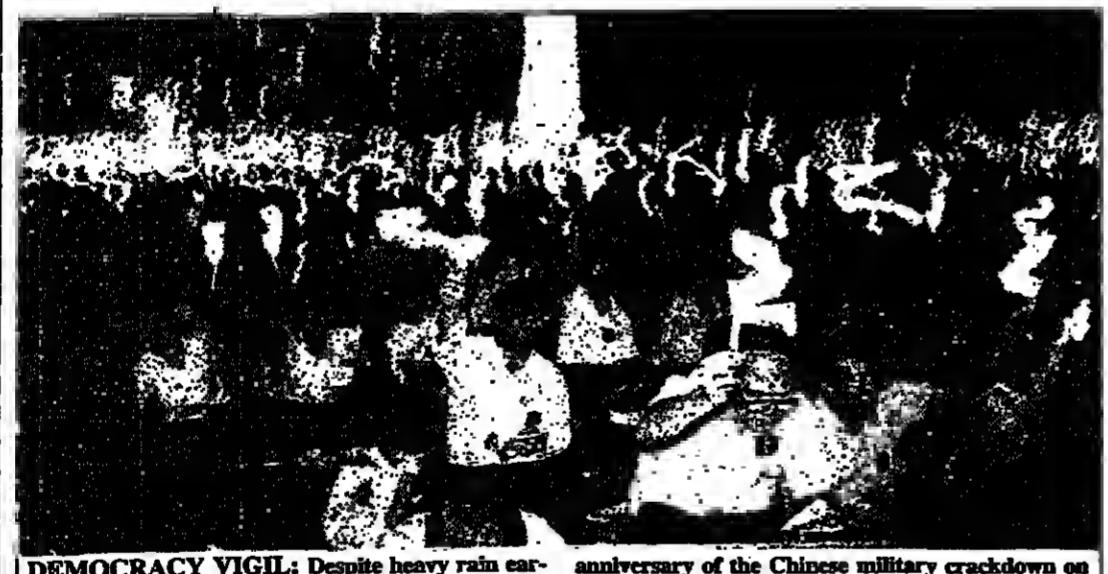
BAGHDAD (R) — A team of United Nations arms experts arrived in Baghdad Friday to monitor Iraq's ballistic missile potential and press for full compliance with Gulf war ceasefire terms.

"We're still missing important information concerning Iraq's past prohibited (weapons) programme," senior inspector Nikita Smidovich told reporters.

Under the terms that ended the 1990 Gulf war over Kuwait, Iraq

is compelled to declare and destroy all its prohibited ballistic, biological, chemical and nuclear weapons along with the means to produce them.

For more than two years, U.N. teams have been scouring Iraq to check for banned weapons and activities. Mr. Smidovich said Baghdad was still in compliance with the major Gulf war ceasefire resolution, number 687.



DEMOCRACY VIGIL: Despite heavy rain earlier in the day, some 10,000 people attend a candle light vigil in Hong Kong Friday to mark the fourth anniversary of the Chinese military crackdown on the 1989 pro-democracy movement in Beijing (Shanghai protests broken up, page 10)

Egyptian and Palestinian officials discuss peace talks

CAIRO (Agencies) — Senior officials of Egypt and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) met Friday to consider Washington's invitation to Palestinian negotiators to discuss a joint declaration of principles on Palestinian self-rule.

The talks included senior PLO official Mahmoud Abbas, Palestinian delegation leader Faisal Al Husseini and Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa.

Osama Al Baz, President Hosni Mubarak's top political adviser, and Palestinian Ambassador to Cairo Saeed Kamal also attended.

No date has been set for a meeting in Washington between Palestinian and U.S. officials.

PLO officials said Palestinian negotiators submitted a five-page letter to Washington last week with 10 questions about the U.S. position on Palestinian interim self-government and the term of

reference of the peace process.

"We need American clarifications on their position regarding the peace process before the next round of peace talks starts," Mr. Husseini, overall leader of the Palestinian negotiating team, said in Amman Thursday.

"Without a doubt the American response to our questions will have an impact on our meetings with American officials in Washington and on the negotiations," he added.

Palestinians rejected a U.S.-drafted joint Palestinian-Israeli statement at the close of the ninth round of talks in Washington last month, saying it was biased towards Israel.

The Palestinian delegation was expected to travel to the United Arab Emirates Saturday in the highest-level Palestinian visit to the Gulf state since the 1991 war over Kuwait.

Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in saying that the Hajj, attended by about two million Muslims each year, would be incomplete if it is not used as a forum to air the political grievances of the Islamic World.

Iran says they began to besiege the building earlier on Thursday when they apparently expected an Iranian demonstration.

The official Iranian news agency IRNA said the siege was now over but the Saudi police continued watching the area using two closed circuit television cameras.

Tehran and Riyadh clashed over political activity during this year's pilgrimage, which culminated on Monday.

Police stopped Iranian pilgrims carrying out plans to hold an anti-American rally in Mecca on May 27. Iran denounced this as an irresponsible act carried out under U.S. pressure.

The Iranians organised a makeshift rally in their compound at Mina outside Mecca on Tuesday night and vowed they would hold "deliverance from infidels" ceremonies in Mecca during the Hajj in the future.

The confrontation raised tensions between the two regional powers, which are ruled by rival sects of Islam, just as relations seemed to be improving after a visit to Riyadh by Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati last Thursday.

Saudi Arabia, which said its officials did not notice the Tuesday rally, condemned the earlier Iranian attempt as un-Islamic and illegal.

A Saudi official quoted by the Saudi Press Agency blamed the trouble on Iranian extremists who wanted to "blow up the efforts of the wise Iranians who are keen on Iranian interests and who always try to clear the air between Iran and its Arab neighbours."

Iranian officials follow late reports.

(Continued on page 3)

Palestinians to seek Arab backing for their stands

By P.V. Vivekanand

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Palestinians are expected to press for broad Arab support for their stands to realise American and Israeli pledges during a coordination meeting in Amman this week of the Arab parties involved in the 19-month-old peace negotiations with the Jewish state.

Barring last-minute developments, it is a foregone conclusion that the negotiations would resume in Washington on June 14, and the focus of the Sunday-Monday meeting in Amman is expected to be more on Arab strategy than on the date for the American-Russian-sponsored talks, informed sources said Friday.

Washington had suggested June 7 for the resumption of the talks, but the Palestinians sought and secured a one-week delay.

The Amman meeting, which will bring together foreign ministers Farouk Sharaf of Syria, Farouk Bouez of Lebanon, Farouk Kaddoumi of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and host Abdul Salam Majali of Jordan (who is also prime minister), is expected to hear Palestinian

appeals for stepped-up pressure on Washington to fulfill its pledges and twist Israel's arm into honouring the promises made prior to the ninth round of talks.

One of the main Palestinian demands expected to be tabled in Amman this week include a clear timetable for the return of Palestinian refugees stranded in South Lebanon since December, release of Palestinian women and children prisoners from Israeli jails, and a total halt to Israel's policy of demolition of Palestinian homes.

The PLO, which sent a high-level delegation to Syria, Lebanon and Jordan two weeks ago, is expected to press the Arabs to support its quest for the restart of the suspended U.S.-PLO dialogue. But, the sources said, it was unlikely that the Arab parties, while sympathising with the PLO demand, would condition their return to the talks on the resumption of the dialogue.

The demands as well as issues of substance related to the core of the peace talks are also expected to be tabled by the Palestinians at a meeting with U.S. State Department officials prior to the resumption of the peace negotiations.

In the run-up to the Amman meeting, which will also be from the rest of the occupied territories, and opening the Holy City is of paramount political significance for the Palestinians.

After an assessment of the ninth of Arab-Israeli peace talks, the two sides stressed the need to maintain Jordanian-Palestinian coordination," the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

Mr. Husseini and PLO Executive Committee member Mahmoud Abbas was in Cairo Friday (see separate story). PLO Executive Committee member Yasser Arafat Rabbo was also in town Friday.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, meanwhile, has cancelled a visit to the Middle East in what was slated to be an effort to smooth things in the peace process.

Mr. Christopher was expected in the region after attending an international human rights conference in Vienna on June 14, but he called off his plans after it became evident that no serious questions remained on the resumption of the peace talks in Washington, reports said.

In another development, the Palestinian People's Party (Communist), which held back its two delegates and advisor in the Palestinian negotiating team from attending the last round of talks, will be sending one of its representatives, Ghassan Al Khath, along with Mr. Husseini to the Washington meeting with State Department officials, sources told the Jordan Times.

It was not immediately known whether Dr. Khath, who, along with Samir Abdallah, did not attend the ninth round, would also go to the formal negotiations with Israel.

During the meeting with the Palestinians, American officials will try to thrash out some of the major differences that held up the issuance of a joint Israeli-Palestinian "declaration of principles" during the ninth round.

Palestinian delegates who had rejected an Israeli draft as well as an American compromise document and ruled out any discussions on the two drafts, will present an elaboration of a Palestinian-drafted declaration to Washington.

Iraq-Kuwait border town lives life on the edge

By Jane Arraf
Reuter

UMM QASR, Iraq — Iraqis on the wrong side of the new border with Kuwait say it will take more than a concrete marker and a U.N. decision to drive them from their homes.

Children play in the dusty streets around pillar 105, the second-last marker on the 207-kilometres border redrawn by the United Nations after the 1991 Gulf war.

Civilians come and go at will within a demilitarized zone spanning the border. Some youngsters attend school in Iraq but live in what the U.N. says is Kuwait.

The Security Council declared in late May that the border demarcation was final. At the southern edge of Umm Qasr town, Iraqi government buildings have been levelled by the U.N.

But solid brick homes with large gardens testify to the middle class life provided by the nearby port before Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, and show Baghdad's determination to hold its ground despite its Gulf war defeat.

Twenty of the 63 families now on the Kuwaiti side of town were moved there after the war ended Iraq's occupation of the emirate.

"As we understand it this is Iraq and it is going to stay Iraq. There is not a single Kuwaiti for miles," said Mayor Mohammad Abdullah Al Liwai, installed by Baghdad after the war.

"We are not leaving our homes. Where would we go?" asks Zainab Abbas, a 22-year-old mother of five.

Importantly for Baghdad the new line gives Kuwait most of an Iraqi naval base and part of an oil field.

Iraqis were never happy about the British-fostered de-

velopment of Kuwait as a separate territory after World War I.

Although Baghdad gave diplomatic recognition to the emirate's government in 1963 it did not follow through with a formal agreement to mark the border.

The U.N. boundary commission set up after the 1991 Gulf war says it was not drawing a new line — just clarifying that the old frontier really lay a short distance northeast of the informal border used over the years.

The demilitarized zone is patrolled by the United Nations, which bars Kuwait from setting up its border posts closer than one kilometre from the U.N.-defined frontier.

The nearest Kuwaiti town is 120 kilometres away and many Iraqis here speak as though the Gulf war never happened.

"Kuwait is part of Iraq. Nothing can change that," said Mr. Abbas, reciting the lesson every Iraqi child learns in school. "This is all our country."

"Kuwait will always be an Iraqi province," said a young soldier at home when asked about statements by Iraqi officials earlier this year that Kuwait was a "closed chapter."

"We have the will and we have the men — we will get it back," said the soldier, Abdul Mohsen Gaetan Hassan, ridiculing Kuwait's plans to build a huge trench and lay over one million mines along the frontier.

Like other servicemen, Hassan has been partly cushioned from U.N. trade sanctions and post-war inflation by pay rises.

His salary now gives him 850 dinars a month.

That is only about \$15 at current black market rates.

But it is about four times the pay of the civilians at the port, which is idle because of U.N. trade sanctions but still has 90 per cent of the town's workforce on its payroll.

Iraq's 1980-1988 war with Iran left the Shatt Al Arab waterway at its southeastern border blocked with sunken ships, making Umm Qasr the only outlet to the Gulf.

The U.N. border commission says the boundary ensures both countries access to the Gulf through the Khor Abdullah waterway.

At the naval base, the rubble of buildings and salvaged boats shows Iraqi property destroyed by the United Nations after Baghdad was allowed to take out what it could.

A clash over Iraq's removal of police posts across the demarcation line in January, helped spark U.S.-led air strikes against Baghdad. The problem still simmers.

Iraq has denounced the U.N. commission's ruling, saying it ignored history to give Iraqi territory to Kuwait and repeating claims that the oil-rich emirate was historically "sliced off" from Iraq by European powers.

"Some Iraqis have been tortured when they went to retrieve cables ... our farmers near the border have been shot at," said Major Wasfi Aoda, an Iraqi liaison officer with the U.N. Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission monitoring the demilitarized zone.

U.N. military observers say Iraqis and Kuwaitis have exchanged sporadic fire several times a month from their border posts.

Kuwait says it is expecting the U.N. to boost its force along the border soon with additional troops from Greece, Argentina and Bangladesh.

It is not clear if the U.N. will boost its force along the border soon with additional troops from Greece, Argentina and Bangladesh.



ANTI-PULLOUT PROTESTS: Demonstrators with graduation hats call on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to resign as he was receiving a honorary degree from an Israeli university Thursday. The demonstrators oppose Israel's withdrawal from Syria's Golan Heights. Israel's leading religious authorities declared Thursday that the Golan is an integral part of the Jewish state. The chief

rabbinate issued a communiqué saying: "The Golan is inseparable from Israel where religious precepts linked to the land apply and whose inhabitants obey the commandment to people greater Israel." The communiqué signed by chief rabbis Israel Lau and Eliezer Bakshi Doron followed a meeting with a delegation of rabbis from the Golan

U.N. panel assails Iran over rights of women

GENEVA (AP) — The U.N. Committee on Economic, Cultural and Social Rights has taken Iran to task for its treatment of women and for failing to lift the death threat against author Salman Rushdie.

A U.N. statement Thursday said that Iran was one of six countries considered during a two-week closed-door meeting to review compliance with the 1976 U.N. convention on economic, social and cultural rights.

The text of the committee's concluding remarks, made available to U.N. officials, were particularly critical of Iran.

"The committee expresses its particular concern with respect to the nonperformance by the government of Iran of its obligation ... to ensure the equality of men and women," the 18-member panel said.

It said Iran's constitution

placed unacceptable conditions, with phrases like "provided it is not against Islam," on the country's respect for human rights.

"It is apparent that the authorities in Iran are using the religion as a pretext in order to abuse these rights," it said.

The committee found that the Iranian government's report on the situation of women in Iran was "essentially legalistic" and that concerns about the treatment of non-Muslim minorities "have not been satisfactorily answered."

Philip Alston of Australia, chairman of the panel, told reporters earlier that "in diplomatic language" the committee's discussion with Iran was "a robust exchange."

The committee said women in Iran were forbidden to study engineering, agriculture, mining, metallurgy and "a very large number of specific subjects at university level."

They also are barred from becoming magistrates and need their husbands' permission to work or travel abroad, it said.

Iran's practices are "incompatible with the obligations undertaken by Iran under the covenant," the committee said.

"The obligation to ensure equal opportunity for women warrants particular attention, especially in relation to the right to work, family-related rights and the right to education," it said.

Harassment includes night visits to relatives' homes, illegal searches and summons to police stations, with some women detained for more than the maximum 10 days, according to Amnesty.

Amnesty says women targeted and tortured in Tunisia crackdown

PARIS (AP) — Hundreds of women have been arbitrarily arrested in Tunisia over the past two years and scores of them tortured, sexually abused or threatened, Amnesty International said Thursday.

A report by the London-based human rights organisation charged that some women were "detained as hostages" to pressure male relatives wanted for their ties to banned organisations to give themselves up.

Tunisia's Foreign Ministry rejected the report as "calumnious, prejudiced, partial and tendentious," and said it brought discredit on the human rights group.

Amnesty called on the Tunisian government to recognise that torture and ill-treatment — documented in two 1992 reports — remain a "serious problem," to thoroughly investigate it, punish those responsible and ensure that such practices end.

According to the 14-page report, security officials over the past two years have targeted mainly wives and relatives of supporters of the banned Muslim fundamentalist movement, Al Nahda, and the banned Tunisian Workers' Communist Party.

It said such abuse reveals a "pattern of human rights violations against women which has become increasingly widespread over the past two years and which is part of a wider circle of repression of political opponents"

Tunisian authorities have been engaged in a crackdown on the Al Nahda movement since 1990, convicting hundreds of supporters in two trials last year. According to Amnesty, at least 8,000 people were thought to have been arrested at the height of the crackdown in 1991.

Women became increasingly vulnerable to abuse as the crackdown intensified, the report said, and men went into hiding or fled.

Security forces then focused on female relatives to extract information on the men's whereabouts or pressure them to turn themselves in, the report charged.

Harassment includes night visits to relatives' homes, illegal searches and summons to police stations, with some women detained for more than the maximum 10 days, according to Amnesty.

Many of those detained were not physically abused, the report said. "However, scores of women have testified that during their time in detention they were tortured, beaten, undressed, sexually abused and threatened with rape."

The report said that security forces focused on female relatives of Communist Party activists in 1992, when the majority of Islamic activists were silenced.

Amnesty said the number of women victimised by torture is difficult to evaluate because many cases go unreported out of shame or fear. It said it corroborated scores of victims' reports with lawyers and doctors who treated them.

The report included several women's accounts of detention periods that included beatings and sexual abuse. The women were not named.

One woman who claimed she was forced to undress in front of policemen, police women and her brother allegedly had "cigarettes stubbed on my genitals while two policemen held my hands and a policewoman held my face."

The woman, married to a prominent Al Nahda member, claimed she was suspended by her arms and beaten. Doctors confirmed partial paralysis of the right arm, and "physical conditions consistent with her allegations of torture," Amnesty said.

Tunis rejects charge

The Tunisian government bitterly criticised such "false testimony" of women "belonging to the terrorist movement Al Nahda and the leftist group PCT, both illegal."

The Foreign Ministry described the report as "calumnious in its pre-judgements, partial and tendentious in its positions, reproducing without discernments tracts diffused by extremist groups which preach violence"

It condemned the Amnesty report, saying it "put seriously into question the credibility of this organisation."

The statement noted Tunisia's efforts on behalf of women, which include a personal code that frees Tunisia's women from many of the strictures customary in the Arab World.

NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. armed forces radio, TV in Somalia

MOGADISHU (AP) — Six months after arriving in this desert wasteland, where the best entertainment is watching camels trot down main street, U.S. soldiers will begin receiving armed forces radio and television. U.S. Air Force Major Ron Paciello announced Thursday that one television station and two radio stations should begin operating by the beginning of July off satellite feeds from the Armed Forces network in Frankfurt, Germany. The military is shipping in 1,000 radios and 100 television sets, plus 100 sets of rabbit ears — none of which can be found here. The bad news is the listening range will be 30 kilometres at the most, so soldiers outside Mogadishu will miss out. The good news: Armed Forces network has no commercials.

Dead Sea scroll publisher appeals damages

TEL AVIV (AP) — A U.S. academic has lodged an appeal with Israel's supreme court against conviction for violating copyright on a key manuscript of the Dead Sea scrolls. Hershel Shanks, editor of the *Journal of Biblical Archaeology Review*, printed a pirated version of a scroll reconstructed painstakingly by an Israeli professor and was ordered to pay \$36,000 damages as well as costs. Professor Eliyahu Qimron of Beersheba University spent 11 years deciphering 70 fragments of the ancient texts unearthed at Qumran by the Dead Sea. "The court erred in ignoring the distinction between a creative and original process that not protected by copyright law and a creative and original text," Mr. Shanks claims in his appeal. The case centres on the rights of a scholar to exclusivity and has drawn widespread interest in the academic world. For Mr. Shanks, scholars working on the scrolls took too long and deprived the public of the right to know. Prof. Qimron was assigned the work as part of an international team studying the prized texts from the ascetic Jewish sect which some believe provide clues to the birth of Christianity. No date has been set for the appeal.

Marines to take part in Kuwait exercises

WASHINGTON (AP) — About 4,200 U.S. Marines will participate in joint manoeuvres with British and Kuwaiti forces next week in Kuwait and the Gulf, the Pentagon said Thursday. Code-named Eager Mace, the exercise, scheduled for June 7 to 15, is designed to "demonstrate U.S. amphibious capabilities and the continuing U.S. commitment to the security and stability of the Persian Gulf region," said a Pentagon statement. The participating U.S. Marine units include elements of Amphibious Squadron Two and the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit. Marines will also provide an amphibious cargo ship and a tank landing ship. U.S. forces have carried out regular military exercises in Kuwait and the Gulf under the terms of a defence cooperation agreement signed by the United States and Kuwait after the 1991 Gulf war.

Rebels defect to army in south Sudan

KHARTOUM (AP) — Fourteen rebel soldiers, including four officers, have defected to the Sudanese armed forces in the western Nuur zone of Upper Nile state in south Sudan, the official media reported Thursday. The defectors included a lieutenant-colonel and three first lieutenants, according to the army general command, which said they were well received by government troops when they came over on March 25. The military did not say whether the rebels came from Colonel Ibrahim Dinka's Dinka-dominated mainstream faction of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) or Riek Machar's dissident wing, which is mainly Nuer. The army general command attributed continuing defections of rebel officers to low morale, the distances of supply lines and acute food shortages in their ranks. It also declared that the defectors were convinced of the need for peace in Sudan, where the SPLA has been fighting for a decade to end domination of the mainly animist and Christian south by the Arabic-speaking north. Peace talks between Colonel Garang's SPLA mainstream and the Khartoum military junta broke down last month because of disagreement on imposing strict Islamic law or making Sudan a secular state.

Britain offers to help Lebanon rebuild

BEIRUT (AP) — Britain is ready to help Lebanon rebuild from the ruins left by 15 years of war, British Housing Minister Sir George Young said here Thursday. "We will be working hard to win business for Britain and looking for opportunities to assist Beirut and Lebanon in its programme of reconstruction and development," he said. Mr. Young, heading the first British delegation to Lebanon in years, was attending a seminar on reconstruction chaired by British Ambassador to Lebanon Gerald Fort. Also attending were Lebanese cabinet members and the head of the Reconstruction and Development Council, Fadi Shalan. Mr. Young and his 15-member delegation of businessmen representing large British construction firms arrived in Beirut Wednesday.

Netanyahu blackmail complaint probe dropped

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prosecutors have dropped a probe into allegations of political blackmail and wiretapping of Likud Party leader Benjamin Netanyahu's telephone, for lack of evidence, officials said Thursday. The probe kicked off a feud which still threatens to split the right-wing party and hurt its chances of defeating Labour Party Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in the next Israeli elections. Mr. Netanyahu, also a former U.N. ambassador, complained of eavesdropping in January, saying a threatening telephone call was made to his wife about an extramarital affair, of trying to blackmail him into dropping his candidacy for the right-wing party's number one spot, which he ended up winning in a March primary. A justice ministry statement said police came up with insufficient evidence to press charges, but maintained there had been sufficient grounds to open an investigation. It said some signs of tampering with Mr. Netanyahu's office telephone was found but not the phone call to Mrs. Netanyahu. "There was no evidence found to provide grounds to suspect any person or other factor" of the complaints made, it said. Israeli media reported that Mr. Netanyahu had suspected supporters of his main rival in the race, former Foreign Minister David Levy, of eavesdropping. Mr. Netanyahu denied this Thursday. Mr. Levy, still angry, accused Mr. Netanyahu on state television of "audacity." He also urged Mr. Netanyahu to "draw conclusions," which in Hebrew parlance generally means a call for someone to resign.

Netanyahu blackmail complaint probe dropped

The Tunisian government bitterly criticised such "false testimony" of women "belonging to the terrorist movement Al Nahda and the leftist group PCT, both illegal."

Other flights (Terminal 2)

07:45 ... Larvac (CY) ... New Delhi (IN) ... 21:30 ... Larvac (CY) ... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (UAE) ... 22:30 ... Larvac (CY) ... Sanas (YV) ... 09:15 ... Larvac (CY) ... Carib, Agabi (UJ) ... 10:15 ... Larvac (CY) ... Dhabra (UJ) ... 12:30 ... Larvac (CY) ... Karachi, Dubai (UJ) ... 11:30 ... Larvac (CY) ... Colombo (UJ) ... 13:15 ... Larvac (CY) ... Beirut (UJ) ... 14:30 ... Larvac (CY) ... New York, Amsterdam (UJ) ... 15:30 ... Larvac (CY) ... Frankfurt, Vienna (UJ) ... 16:30 ... Larvac (CY) ... London, Berlin (UJ) ... 17:45 ... Larvac (CY) ... Bangkok (RU) ... 20:45 ... Larvac (CY) ... Madrid (RU) ... 23:45 ... Larvac (CY) ... Damascus, Paris (AF) ...

Market prices

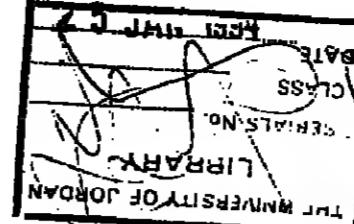
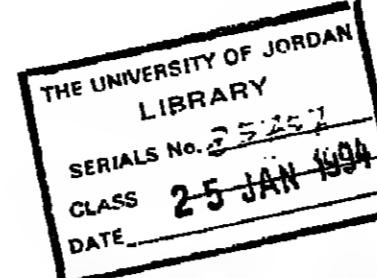
Upper/lower price in £ per kg.
Apples 700/700
Bananas (Makhamar) 680/680
Beans 620/620
Cabbage 50/50
Carrot 150/150
Cauliflower 250/250
Cucumbers (large) 120/120
Cucumbers (small) 240/240
Eggplant 300/300
Garlic 260/260
Grapefruit 240/240
Lemon 580/580
Marrow (large) 90/90
Marrow (small) 150/150
Mint 80/80
Onion (dry) 280/280
Onion (green) 600/600
Orange 600/600
Pepper (hot) 450/450
Potato 200/200
Tomato 120/120
Tomato 40/40

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:45 ... Jaliha, Singapore (RU) ... 07:45 ... Larvac (CY) ... 09:15 ... Larvac (CY) ... 10:15 ... Larvac (CY) ... 11:30 ... Larvac (CY) ... 12:30 ... Larvac (CY) ... 13:15 ... Larvac (CY) ... 1

Home News



JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 1993



SPREADING CHEER: Her Majesty Queen Noor spends the Eid Al Adha feast with the orphans at the SOS Children's Villages in Amman and Aqaba. Accompanied by her children Princes Hamzeh and Hashem and Princesses Elmah and Raya, the Queen chatted with the children and distributed gifts to them for the Eid. Officials at the two villages expressed appreciation for the Queen Noor's customary visits and her continued care for the children.

Pilgrims return home

AMMAN (J.T.) — Muslims from Palestinian lands occupied since 1948 who were on pilgrimage in Mecca will start arriving in Amman Saturday, and the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has arranged to receive them at Marj Al Hamam near Amman, according to the ministry sources.

The sources said Jordanian citizens wishing to temporarily host the pilgrims should call Saturday at the gathering point at Marj Al Hamam for arrangements with police authorities.

Just before the end of the pilgrimage, the head of the Jordanian pilgrimage mission and advisor to His Majesty King Hussein on Islamic Affairs Sheikh Izzedin Al Khathib Al Tamini called Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali to assure him that all Jordanian pilgrims were in good health and have embarked on their return trip to Jordan.

Special arrangements are also being made at the King Hussein Bridge in the Jordan Valley to facilitate the return of pilgrims from the Israeli-occupied territories to their homes following their brief stay in the Kingdom.

The Public Security Department said the pilgrims will be gathered at the Pilgrims City at Ghor Nimein Saturday and Sunday before crossing to the occupied territories.



His Majesty King Hussein attends prayers at Al Hashem Mosque on the occasion of Eid Al Adha. King Hussein is accompanied by Their Royal Highnesses Princes Abdullah, Faisal, Hamzeh and

Hashem. Also in attendance were Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, Speaker of the Senate Ahmad Al Lawzi and Lower House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabyat (Petra photo)



His Majesty King Hussein receives leading officials of the Intelligence Department, the Public Security Department, the Army and Civil Defence Department on the occasion of the Eid Al Adha.

Jordan ends Eid Al Adha holidays

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian life returns to "business as usual" Saturday following a five-day holiday observed by public and private sectors on the Eid Al Adha, which marked the end of this year's pilgrimage to Mecca.

On the first day of the Feast of Sacrifice, His Majesty King Hussein attended prayers at Al

Hashem Mosque with other worshippers including Royal family members, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, senior government officials and high-ranking army officers.

Following the prayers, His Majesty visited the tombs of Kings Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein and Talal Ibn Abdullah where he recited verses of the Holy Koran and laid memorial wreaths. King Hussein also vi-

sited the tomb of the late Queen Alia.

Later His Majesty attended a reception at Raghadan Palace where he greeted well-wishers who included prominent individuals, ministers, Parliament members, heads of diplomatic missions, religious leaders and many other citizens.

During the holiday, at least 16 deaths and 100 injuries were reported in the Kingdom, re-

sulting from incidents at home, fires, road accidents and food poisonings.

Local newspapers reported the occurrence of at least 8,640 incidents and accidents in the last five days noting that they occurred in different governo-

rates. The report said that the Civil Defence fire engines were called to extinguish the fire which caused material damage but no casualties.

The reports indicated that some of victims are still being treated at hospitals including Al Bashir Hospital in Amman which reported the treatment

Businesses look for speedy economic reform

By Suleiman Al Khalidi
Reuters

AMMAN — Jordan's new government has pledged to speed the pace of economic reform and raised hopes that the private sector will play a wider role in the economy.

"Our first priority will be to intensify efforts the previous government began in reactivating the economy," newly-appointed Finance Minister Sami Qammo told Reuters.

Business leaders are pressing the government to offer them shares in successful state enterprises, a move which may mean a loss of jobs, and cut bureaucracy which they say is a disincentive to investment and exports.

Despite past commitments to allocate a larger role to the private sector, a programme to privatise major sectors including telecommunications, the state refinery, cement industry and port facilities is mostly still at the planning stage.

The transitional government named by His Majesty King Hussein on May 29 will supervise Jordan's November parliamentary elections, the first multi-party vote in more than three decades. Almost half of the ministers who resigned plan to run in the elections.

"This government has no justification now not to take economic measures that may be unpopular and painful, but necessary... it need not be constrained as its predecessor by electoral factors," said Hamdi Al Tahaa, prominent businessman and a former min-

ister of Trade and Industry. Business officials said the new government's strong mandate should help it enact laws speeding up privatisation measures.

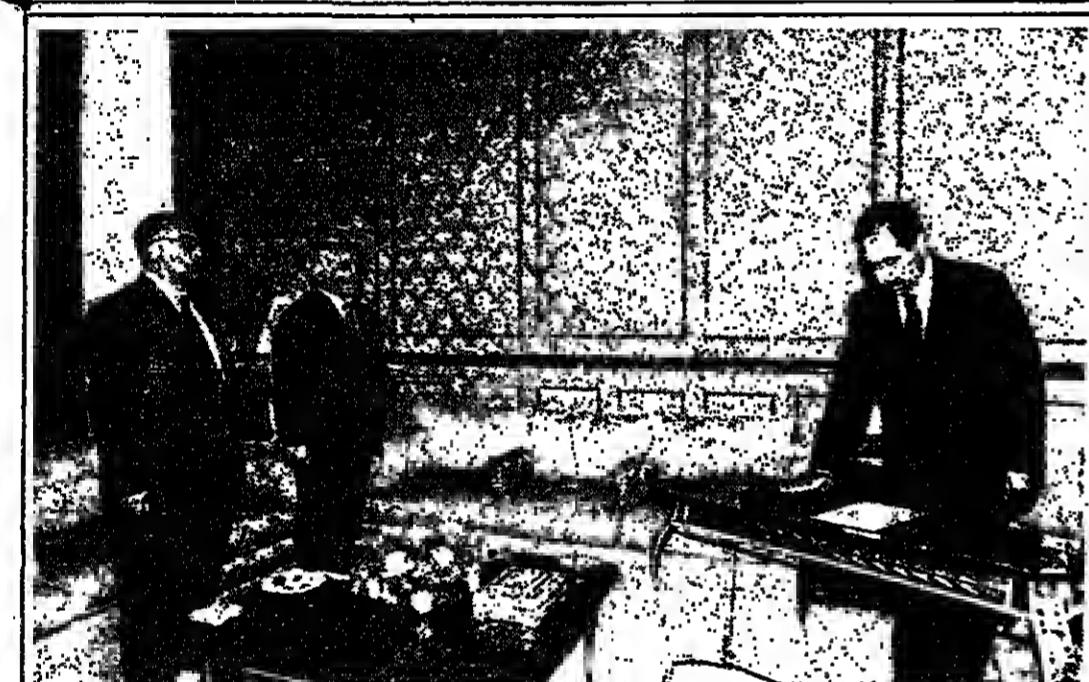
Others said the new government could also help implement laws already passed or in the pipeline such as those setting up duty-free zones or reducing taxation.

"If only the present laws that give the private sector a bigger role are put into action... it will create a better investment environment," said Hani Nasser, a major contractor.

The private sector, estimated to have about \$10 billion in liquid assets, is still on the sidelines awaiting concrete steps to reduce red tape before investing large sums.



RECEIVING WELL-WISHERS: Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali on the first day of Eid Al Adha receives former Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat. Dr. Majali and his Cabinet received well-wishers at the Prime Ministry following the formation of Jordan's new government which coincided with the beginning of the Feast of Sacrifice holidays (Petra photo)



OATH-TAKING: Minister of State for Prime Foreign Affairs Talal Sataan Al Hassan Thursday took the oath of office before His Majesty King Hussein. Present at the oath-taking ceremony

Vocational corporation plans to train 73,000 citizens during 5-year plan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) plans to provide training in different trades to 73,000 citizens during the 1993-1997 Five-Year Plan, according to Ahmad Atwan, VTC director general.

The training will take place at 37 vocational training centres in various governorates, said Dr. Atwan at a ceremony for the graduation of a new group of 1,000 trainees last week.

Under the five-year-plan, said Dr. Atwan, the VTC will set up new training centres that will take in women trainees and also will give priority to training in

technology-related fields.

Setting up of new centres or expanding existing ones will take place at Aqaba where a hotel training institute will be established and also at Yajouz, Aqaba, Qweishieh, Manara and Irbid, said Dr. Atwan.

He said a modern training centre that will cost JDS million is being set up at Zarqa to train young men in construction work.

Since its establishment in 1977, the VTC has been able to organise training courses extending from three months to two years to 76,000 citizens in cooperation with 3,400 private businesses which offered practical training

for VTC trainees.

Most of the trainees in the past few years, said Dr. Atwan, included community college and school graduates who have been searching for work.

Dr. Atwan noted that the VTC has been particularly cooperating with the Sahar Industrial City near Amman and the Al Hassan Industrial City in Irbid.

Both these cities have numerous types of factories where the trainees have earned practical experience, said Dr. Atwan.

He said that the VTC aims at providing Jordan with much-needed skilled workers who are currently seeking employment.

Iran says Saudis lifted siege

(Continued from page 1)

"Apart from their stand, Saudi authorities are inventing lies to harm the Libyans and leader Muammar Qaddafi and who are devoted all his efforts to Islam," the official JANA news agency said.

The charges are "baseless," it added.

Saudi Television on Wednesday showed a film said to have been taken in 1984 in which Saudi security men were seen seizing revolvers in the luggage of Libyans arriving at the airport for the pilgrimage.

It said the Libyans concerned said they had been sent to "hunt out stray dogs" — Tripoli's term for dissident Libyans.

One man shown identified himself as Mustafa Salem and said he and the others had come to "eliminate the enemies of Islam and the stray dogs" among Libyans.

A Saudi Television commentator said the number of Libyans carrying arms when they landed in Saudi Arabia was "close to 200."

Pilgrimage to Jerusalem

Libyan pilgrims who made an unprecedented trip to Jerusalem also accused Saudi Arabia of taking cheap shots at Col. Qadha-

"The Saudi authorities unfortunately exploited this case to

taneous initiative by pilgrims who could not fly from Libya to the pilgrimage to Mecca.

"We have visited Jerusalem because it is an Arab and Islamic capital. It is the capital of the Palestinian state which was recognised by some 80 countries. Our visit does not mean that we have recognised Israel or have links with Israel," Mr. Tajouri said.

"We are dignified and free people. We don't take permission from New York or from (Palestinian leader) Faisal Al Hussein to pray in (Jerusalem's) Al Aqsa Mosque," Mr. Tajouri said.

"Since the Saudi authorities have failed to liberate its holy lands from Western forces (after the 1991 Gulf war), there is no difference between occupied Jerusalem and occupied Mecca," he added.

During the six days of voting, he said, the Jordanian team was operating within the framework of a programme set by the United Nations and closely cooperating with the U.N. headquarters in Phnom Penh.

OBITUARY

East-West Establishment mourns with deep regret and sorrow the late pharmacist

George Iskandar Hazboun

who passed away in Canada Saturday, 29 May 1993 and was buried there. May his soul rest in peace.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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Serving notice

THE MEETING in Amman tomorrow of the Arab foreign ministers to the Middle East peace talks may not be different from the previous one held on the eve of the ninth round of the bilateral talks. The agenda will most probably focus on the obstacles that hindered progress during the last round, on progress, or the lack of it, achieved in the last two weeks and on ways and means that might help the Arab negotiating stand. While more and more people are sceptical that the 10th round would be dramatically different from the ninth, it is hard to see any future for the talks altogether unless there is a change of heart on the part of Israel. The Israeli government under Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin still holds the key for any breakthrough for the entire peace process.

On the Palestinian-Israeli level, the bottom line is whether Rabin accepts the full application of U.N. Security Council resolutions calling for peace in return for the restoration of Palestinian lands and Palestinian national rights. The kind of settlements that Israel has already constructed on Palestinian soil suggests, however, that Israel's rhetorical acceptance of Security Council Resolution 242 is nothing more than a negotiating gimmick aiming to convince the world of its sincerity in the quest for peace treaties with its Arab neighbours. The exclusion by Israel of East Jerusalem from the purview of the Palestinian-Israeli talks also reinforces the suspicion that in fact Israel is not prepared to withdraw from the Palestinian territories. All past efforts to register progress in the Palestinian-Israeli track have faded simply because Israel has yet to commit itself to an operational application of Resolution 242.

There is no chance that the other negotiating tracks can attain any progress in the absence of real progress on the Palestinian-Israeli track. That is why Rabin is constantly striving to reverse the order of the negotiating process by putting the other Israeli-Arab bilateral peace talks ahead of the Palestinian-Israeli track. This much the Amman meeting Sunday can correct by emphasising the necessity of achieving a breakthrough on the Palestinian case over the other Arab-Israeli conflicts. The Arab foreign ministers can make a point of this issue during their deliberations Sunday and then serve Israel and the two co-sponsors of the bilateral peace talks with notice that that is how the Arab parties regard the peace process. The sooner Rabin becomes convinced that no progress whatsoever can be attained on the other fronts unless he comes out more clearly on the Palestinian question the better it will be for all parties concerned. The frustration felt by Palestinians and Arabs alike at the lack of progress and the Israeli right's determination to sabotage the peace process both now threaten to kill it altogether. Time is certainly against peace unless it is used quickly to attain some results. That much must be made loud and clear for both Israel and the U.S. to hear and appreciate.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'AT Arabic daily Friday recalled the June 5 anniversary noting that it marks the lapse of 26 years since the 1967 occupation of West Bank and Gaza Strip. The paper said the Arabs should draw useful lessons from this sad anniversary and act in a more objective manner to regain their rights. The Arabs should not give way to despair as a result of this set-back or in view of the current situation in the Arab World, said the paper. It is true that the differences and divisions among Arab states are as deep as ever and it is true that Arab rights are still usurped as Israel continues to ignore U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 253, the exchange of land for peace and as a result of the negative U.S. attitude towards the peace process, said the paper. But, it said, it should be noted that the intifada is still going on despite the escalation of Israeli terrorist and criminal actions and this calls for renewed hope that the Arabs will eventually regain their lost land and rights. What is needed now, the paper said, is diligent and concerted action on the part of the Arabs towards ending their differences and working for the sake of opening new avenues of cooperation and collective action. The paper said that the June 5 anniversary should give the Arab reason for hope rather than despair. The paper's editor-in-chief, N. Al-Khatib, was killed in the recent clashes.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour daily commented on a visit by Libyan Muslims to the holy places in occupied Jerusalem by charging that the Libyan leader has taken this step not for the sake of ending the current siege imposed by Israel on the Palestinian people of the West Bank and Gaza Strip but rather in a bid to mend fences with the Western countries in general and the United States in particular. Saleh Qallash said that the visit can also be interpreted as a sign, on the part of Libya, to normalise relations with Israel in a flagrant defiance of Arab feelings and breach of the pan-Arab consensus on maintaining the boycott on Israel. The breach, said the writer, came from an Arab country calling itself revolutionary and progressive and which has all along spearheaded efforts to a strongly resist normalising relations with Israel as long as it continues to occupy Arab lands. Following the occupation of Palestinian lands in 1967, the Arabs decided that they should impose total boycott of Israel, banning even pilgrims from going to the holy city. Indeed, the Copts of Egypt are still committed to this decision and have not sent a single Christian pilgrim to the Christian holy places in Jerusalem, said the writer. He said that although the Libyan people continue to suffer from the results of the situation on their country, this suffering should not be addressed through giving concessions to the Israeli enemy during a holy day for the Muslim Nation.

LEFT IN A LIMBO?

Kurds need West's aid, protection

By Michael Ignatieff

KURDISTAN — "Allo Mistair!" the shoeshine boys cry when you pass them in the dusty alleys of Dohuk. "Allo Mistair!" comes the greeting from the peshmergas guarding the bridges as you cross in your Land-Cruiser. On the goat-tracks up to the hilltop villages, little brown-faced girls in purple gowns, bent under the weight of the firewood on their backs, shivvily return your wave. Men put down their hoes and come out of the rice paddies and give you a muddy hand to shake. "Allo Mistair, so when you cut Saddam's throat for us?"

When indeed, President Saddam has blockaded Kurdistan's borders and a desperately poor economy is only kept going by the ingenuity of the mule drivers who bring cooking oil and soap over the mountain passes from Iran and the oil-smeared boys who sell smuggled petrol from jerry cans by the roadside.

The police chief in Sulaimanyah showed me a cabinet case full of plastic bombs which Iraqi agents have attached to the lorries of international aid convoys. Several weeks ago, President Saddam suddenly withdrew the 24 dinar note from circulation. Since most Kurds hold their savings in huge wads of 25 denomination notes, the effect was to wipe out the value of most people's savings at a stroke. In all these manoeuvres, President Saddam's strategy is simple: nibble, nibble, while the West's back is turned and when he is sure we're not looking: pounce.

The American jets enforcing the no-fly zone over northern Iraq are all that stand in the way of President Saddam's tanks and helicopter gunships. The Kurds have been betrayed so often that their favourite saying is that they have no friends but the mountains. So they do not entirely trust anyone. But just now, Kurdistan must be one of the rare places in the world where people smile and point when they see American

jets thundering overhead. The West got something right here, and the village people crowd around Mistair to tell him so. Technically, Kurdistan is not a state, just the three northern governorates of the state of Iraq. Kurdistan flies no flag, no national anthem is played, when parliament convenes, though there is a parliament and the rudiments of a police force, an army and a local administration. Real power remains in the hands of the parties and the peace-time warlords who command the peshmergas with their Kalashnikovs.

Kurdish politicians and international aid workers play along with the official fiction that the territorial integrity of Iraq has been maintained. But in reality, Kurdistan is an unprecedented experiment in international law: it is the first attempt to create an internationally protected enclave within a sovereign state in order to protect a people threatened with genocide by their own nominal rulers. If we get the principle right in Kurdistan, we might be able to get it right in Bosnia on behalf of the Muslims. The problem is that we haven't got it right in Kurdistan. We have helped the people back on their feet, but we have left them in a dangerous political limbo.

On the wild and beautiful mountain road from Dohuk to Barzani, you pass village after village, flattened by the Iraqi army during the 1980s, now rebuilt with the help of Swiss, German, Dutch and French charities. You see village dispensaries treating village children for typhoid, scabies and dysentery. The village doctors even tell you they have got most of the infectious disease under control, thanks to UNICEF, UNHCR and Médecins sans Frontières.

Villagers are returning to the 4,500 villages which Iraqis razed, dynamited and gassed during the 1980s. Most people are no longer

living in tents in the plains; breeze-block houses, with sheet metal outdoor, toilets are rising up the steep hillsides. The turbaned shepherds are returning to the upland meadows with their flocks. The marshlands are being turned into rice paddies; the huge plains are given with wheat. A beautiful country is slowly coming awake from 20 years of terror and destruction. Squatter families have run their washing lines up over President Saddam's palaces, barracks and prisons.

But the fear that he will return is everywhere. At one of the new Kurdish television stations in Erbil, a local actor does a perfect imitation of the great dictator's television addresses, using a Spitfire Image rubber mask. But when I ask him to take off the mask and let me take a picture he shilly demurs, for fear that someone will mark him down for trouble if President Saddam ever comes back. When I talk to the head of the security in Erbil, he takes me out of town into the middle of a field of ripening wheat. In town, a crowd might gather; in his own office, somebody might be listening.

It is not just Iraq who is trying to snuff out the Kurdish experiment. Iranians are also having a nibble. On Kurdistan's eastern border, the Iranians have been shelling Kurdish villages and strafing peshmerga bases with bombs. In one base, near Qandil, three kilometres from the Iranian border, I saw the shell cases of 29 American-made cluster bombs, dropped on the base by Iranian Mirages in March, killing four people and damaging the base hospital.

Kurdistan needs out help because none of its neighbours — Turkey, Iran, Iraq and Syria — want it to survive. All of them fear what a free Kurdistan will mean to their own indigenous Kurds. It is already a base and a beacon to the 25 million Kurds in

the region. What the Kurds desperately need from Washington and London is a cast-iron guarantee of security: a commitment that, no matter what, the overflights will continue. Beyond that, President Saddam must be required to end the economic blockade of Kurdistan, so that it can begin importing its Iraqi oil to get its economy on its feet.

Irqi assets frozen abroad could be used to fund a temporary coupon currency which would free the Kurds from President Saddam's manipulation of the dinar.

And who might Martin Indyk be? He is the person appointed by President Bill Clinton to be in charge of the Middle East on the National Security Council (NSC). An Australian, he went to the U.S. in 1992 to work as deputy research director at the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee, the best-known and most influential lobby in the U.S., run by pro-Israel American Jewish Zionists.

Instead of demonstrating our commitment, we seem to be disengaging. The U.N. is withdrawing its armed guards for relief operations and has announced that the U.N. fund for aid to Kurdistan is drastically undersubscribed. Kurdistan's roads, bridges, schools cry out to be rebuilt, but already the big western aid caravan is moving on to other destinations. Saddam Hussein watches all of this and waits for us to turn our backs.

Something absolutely vital is at stake in Kurdistan. We have taken a people under our protection, and as more states disintegrate or turn into cannibals, feeding on the flesh of their own, we will have to take more peoples under the protection of western air power and humanitarian aid. But in Kurdistan, we have left them in a limbo, hanging on year by year, for the renewal of the aid and the overflights.

According to Jewish sources in "The Jewish Week" magazine in Washington, Mr. Indyk said recently that "the U.S. should not be embarrassed as it mediates the current Middle East peace process," but should instead work to persuade the Palestinians to accept Israel's position. Little wonder that when the U.S. presented a position paper at the end of the latest, ninth round of Israel-Palestinian bilateral talks in Washington, the Palestinians found that it contained not merely Israeli ideas but actual Israeli wording because it had been framed jointly by the U.S. and Israel and without prior consultation with the Palestinian delegation.

That a person with Mr. Indyk's open and pro-Israel credentials should be put directly in charge of America's relations with the Middle East makes absolutely clear that the U.S. is not neutral go-between between Israel and the Arabs.

Mr. Indyk's policy speech, delivered to his Institute for Near East Policy, began with the basics: "America's friends in the Middle Eastern area were Israel, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Turkey. U.S. objectives were: to promote democracy, protect U.S. business interests and the U.S. national interest against threats from radical regimes; to stem the flow of weapons of mass destruction" (but not to eliminate such weapons already in the area such as Israel's 200 nuclear bombs); and achieve a real and comprehensive regional peace.

The U.S. national interests

were said to be the free flow of Middle Eastern oil at reasonable prices; friendship with Arab states prepared to be friendly with the U.S.; an abiding interest in the security and survival of Israel" (no explanation of how and why this

Have no illusions, U.S. remains committed to Israel

By G.H. Jansen

WHILE America's policy towards many parts of the world — Western Europe or the Balkans — is uncertain or changeable, its policy towards the Middle East has been laid out in clear, hard terms in a speech given by Martin Indyk in Washington on May 18.

And

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The enemies of the U.S. in the area are Iraq (no reasons given but taken for granted) and Iran for five reasons: it sponsors terrorism and assassination across the globe; through Hamas and Hezbollah; it is trying to disrupt the peace process; it is trying to subvert friendly governments, trying to dominate the Gulf and to acquire nuclear weapons.

Therefore Iran and Iraq both have to be contained in a "double containment" and, not as before, played-off against each other (as in the first Gulf war). And this "by restricting the military ambitions of both." The emerging threat of Islamic extremism must also be contained.

If the U.S. — if necessary by force — were to make Iraq comply with all U.N. resolutions Iraq would no longer be a "threat to its neighbourhood" (no longer to its "neighbours" only — as this would exclude Israel). The U.S. already backs the Iraqi opposition group, the Iraqi National Council, and allies must be encouraged to do the same.

Overthrowing President Saddam Hussein is no longer enough: compliance with U.N. resolutions must come from all successor Iraqi regimes. Not "do we seek or expect a reconciliation with the Saddam Hussein regime" because it is "a criminal regime, beyond the pale of international society, and, in our judgement, irredeemable."

Attempts by Iran and Iraq to rebuild their arsenals, particularly in the nuclear and ballistic fields, should be blocked.

Iran is just as much, if not a greater, danger as Iraq because it is not constrained by U.N. resolutions. Therefore, "we will not normalise relations with Iran until and unless Iran's policies change across the board." Without "dramatic changes in Iran's behaviour" the U.S. and its allies should not "ease Iran's economic situation."

The few grains of comfort that the Arabs could gain from this exposition of U.S. policy towards the area are to be found in evidence of Mr. Indyk's illusions or his ignorance.

Thus he is clearly indulging in wishful thinking when he elevates Turkey to the position of an important regional asset. And he is wholly misinformed when he said "the coalition that found Saddam Hussein remains together" when, in fact, it is in pieces.

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Palestinians pay for fury of the young

By Sarah Helm

THE GOING rate for a child in Gaza yesterday was 3,000 shekels (\$700). Outside Gaza City police station parents queued quietly in the dust, clutching pieces of paper — receipts to show they had paid the bill.

It is expensive. It is blackmail. But I don't want to leave him in prison," said Ahmad, who has had no work since Israel closed the occupied territories in March. Last time Hussam, his son, was accused of throwing stones at soldiers, his father got the "ransom" money back from the Israeli authorities, who refund it if no accusations are made against the child for a year.

"I won't get the money back this time," he says, wincing. "I won't be able to keep him off the streets. He is older. He is 16."

It is tough being a father in the Gaza Strip. The Israeli "ransom" for a child is supposed to be an incentive for parental discipline. Israelis often accuse Palestinian parents of "sending their children out to the front line." Some even claim Palestinian parents are partly responsible for the record child death toll this year in Gaza and West Bank, where 34 Palestinian children have been killed by Israeli gunfire since January; 12 were under the age of 13. An

18-month-old boy, Fares Al Kaduri, was shot dead in Gaza last week. But between the "discipline" of the Israeli authorities and "discipline" of Palestinian shebab — youth leaders — parents have lost all control.

When the 1987 intifada broke out, parents, often torn between desire to support the uprising, and fear for the safety of their children, tried to hold their children back — only to be damned

HOW DO JORDANIANS VOTE?

Kinship and charisma vs. media and political platform

By Samir Shafiq
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A study on patterns of communication used during the 1989 parliamentary election campaign to reach the electorate throughout the Kingdom has revealed that personal communication had strongly affected the voting behaviour in rural and badia regions while mass media were more powerful in the urban sector.

The study, finalised in the summer of 1992 by Hilmi Khader Sari, assistant professor at the Department of Sociology at the University of Jordan, used quota sampling of 650 students from the 13 colleges of the university. The sample comprised 130 male and 130 female students for each of the rural and urban sectors and 65 male and 65 female students for the badia sector.

The variables of the study were initially four but, after a pilot study was done by the researcher, the variables were reduced to two relevant ones: Sex and social sector (badia, rural and urban).

Of the 650 students, all of whom voted during the 1989 elections, 394 students, for 60.6 per cent, from the three sectors said they were "always" following up on the election campaign.

The number of those who "sometimes" followed up on the campaign was 181, or 27.8 per cent, while those who "rarely" did, numbered 75, or 11.5 per cent.

The reasons and motives behind following up on the election campaign greatly varied between the urban sector on the one hand and the rural and badia sectors on the other, although a total of 338 students said their motives were purely informational.

The badia students came first when 72 of them (55.4 per cent) said their interest in the election campaign was for "kinship" motives as they were eager to know news about their relatives' candida-

date. Eighty-four rural students (32.3 per cent) gave the same reason while only 37 urban students, or 14.3 per cent, said "kinship" was their motive.

Friendship as motive was the least important factor to have influenced the 650-student sample as "friendship" was the reason for 31 students in the urban sector (11.9 per cent), 25 students in the rural sector (9.6 per cent) and six students in the badia areas (4.6 per cent).

Overall, the "information" or general knowledge motive attracted 338 students (161 males and 177 females) and accounted for 52.0 per cent of the total.

The "kinship" motive attracted 193 students (117 males and 76 females) and accounted for 29.7 per cent. The "friendship" motive affected 62 students (27 males and 35 females) or 9.5 per cent. Fifty-seven students, or 8.8 per cent said they were motivated by more than one of the reason mentioned.

The second stage of the study covered the reasons that influenced voters to select a particular electoral district. Badia students were not really free to choose a particular district as they were restricted to voting in one of the three badia districts only (the place of residence).

As such, the total number of those who chose a specific district for residence reason was 328, or 50.5 per cent, while those whose reason was linked to the candidate himself, for personal considerations, numbered 171, or 26.3 per cent. The students who marked both reasons totalled 151, or 23.2 per cent.

In the urban sector, the number of students who had the "residence" as reason was 117, almost equally divided between males and females. However, those who chose the constituency of a candidate to be their reason

for registering to vote at that specific location numbered only 78 students (41 males and 37 females), 65 students marked both "residence" and "candidate" as being factors for voting in a specific centre.

Rural women chose their voting centre more for "residence" considerations. Fifty three (40.8 per cent) female students marked this item, compared to 38 male students (29.2 per cent). Most rural men had the "candidate" as the reason for selecting their voting centre since 49 students (37.7 per cent) cited that preference.

A total of 80 students (43 males and 37 females) from rural regions cited both "residence" and "candidate" as having affected their choice for a specific voting centre.

The third part of the study analysed the effects of various types of mass media used by the candidates to influence voters' behaviour and the attitude of public opinion during elections.

Dr. Sari found that out of many methods, except for radio and television, the "election programme" topped the list of mass media channels in influencing to a great extent the badia regions. Eighty-two students (42 males and 40 females), or 63 per cent, indicated being persuaded by this factor.

The election programme was also an important factor in rural areas but to a lesser extent than the badia regions because those who were influenced by the election programme totalled 108 rural students, or 41.5 per cent. Out of the 108 total, 63 were females and only 45 were males.

In urban areas, the number was even less as personal communication affected the choice of 92 students (51 women and 41 men) or 35.3 per cent.

Daily newspapers ranked in second place in terms of their power to influence electorates, but their effect was greater in urban areas, followed by the rural

and badia regions.

In urban areas, newspapers mainly formulated the decisions of 76 students (44 females and 32 males) or 29.2 per cent while in rural areas the numbers were 75, or 28.8 per cent, almost equally divided between men and women.

The badia regions were the least affected by newspaper ads but the percentage was relatively noticeable at 23.8 per cent. The breakdown was, however, 21 males and 10 females.

Overall, the number of students who were influenced by newspapers totalled 182 students, or 28 per cent of the total. Personal communication or election programmes attracted an overall 282 students, or 43.3 per cent of the total.

Sights spread across streets were in third place as to their impact on voters' decisions. Students who ranked signs as the third influence numbered 100, accounting for 15.4 per cent of the total.

Of the 100 students, 46 (22 males and 24 females) were from urban areas, 42 (26 males and 16 females) came from rural areas and the rest (12 females and two males) were from the badia region.

Leaflets attracted 9.1 per cent of the voters or 39 of the 650-student sample.

The parents tipped the scale in the badia regions; 62 students, 35 of whom females, accounting for 47.7 per cent, adopted the view of their mothers or fathers.

Relatives came as a second influence for badia students but sharply down at 29.2 per cent, or 38 students; followed by family or tribe notables at 12.3 per cent or 16 students. Group discussions were mentioned by 11 students (8.4 per cent) and friends by only three (2.3 per cent).

Rural students ranked parents, relatives and notables for the first

three effects at 30.7 per cent, 30 per cent and 20 per cent respectively.

The number of the students

was respectively 80, of whom 46 were males, 78 equally split between both sexes and 52 students, mostly women (36 females and 16 males).

Group discussions and friends'

Only 10 urban men, 15 rural (11 men and four women) students and two females from the badia said posters were least effective.

The fourth stage of the study was measuring various types of personal communication on the attitude of the voters. The coverage, which included group discussions because it allowed for a "feedback" between the electorate and the candidate, comprised also the effect of reference groups such as parents, relatives and family or village notables.

Overall, out of the 650-student sample, 215 or 33 per cent (107 males and 108 females), 161 or 24.7 per cent (75 males and 86 females), and 100 or 16.9 per cent (69 males and 41 females), said they were influenced by their parents, relatives and group discussions respectively. Those who ranked family or village notables and friends in fourth and fifth place were respectively 108 students or 16.6 per cent (51 males and 57 females), and 56 students or 8.6 per cent (23 males and 33 females).

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Group discussions and friends'

Influence	No. of students	Percentage
Parents	244	37.6
Relatives	125	19.3
Group discussion	92	14.2
Family/Village notables	68	10.5
Election programme	57	8.7
Friends	32	4.9
Newspaper advertisements	25	3.8
Signs	4	0.6
Leaflets	3	0.4
Posters	—	—
Total	650	100.0

A breakdown by sex revealed the overall following results.

Influence	Males	%	Females	%
Parents	107	32.9	137	42.1
Relatives	58	17.8	67	20.6
Group discussion	60	18.5	32	9.8
Notables	37	14.2	31	9.5
Election programme	29	8.9	28	8.6
Friends	16	4.9	16	4.9
Advertisements	15	4.6	10	3.1
Signs	3	0.9	1	0.3
Leaflets	—	—	3	0.9
Posters	—	—	—	—

influence were at the bottom of the scale at 10.4 per cent (22 males and five females) and 8.9 per cent (seven males and 16 females).

The "parents" factor was highest in the urban sector at 47.7 per cent (25 males and 37 females) followed by relatives and notables at 24.6 per cent (15 males and 17 females) and 10 per cent (9 males and 4 females) respectively.

Group discussions in the badia sector ranked fourth at 9.2 per cent (15 males and two females) followed at 6.1 per cent (16 males and 17 females) by "friends" for which 20 males and 23 females attributed their voting choice.

Mass media trailed the list with only two elements: election programme, 3.1 per cent, and newspaper ads 2.3 per cent (2 males and one female).

Having separately examined the mass media and personal communication effects on the electorate, Dr. Sari combined,

"Parents" also topped the list of influences in the rural sector registering 37.3 per cent (46 males and 51 females). Relatives and group discussions were respectively next, at 19.2 per cent (23 males and 27 females) and 13.8 per cent (23 males and 13 females).

"Notables" recorded 13.1 per cent (16 males and 18 females) on the rural list ahead of "friends" who stood at 5.7 per cent.

The influence of mass media was slightly better in the rural sector than in the badia registering 6.1 per cent (10 males and 6 females) for election programme and 3.5 per cent (6 males and 3 females) for newspaper advertisement.

Leaflets and signs were of negligible influence at 0.7 per cent and 0.4 per cent respectively.

Mass media had its highest influence in the urban sector where the election programme lead with 14.2 per cent followed, at five per cent, by newspaper ads then signs and leaflets at 1.1 per cent and 0.4 per cent respectively.

None of the urban students marked posters as having had any influence at all.

The strength of mass media in the urban sector should not be misunderstood because personal communication still had higher influence, though, much less than in the badia or rural sectors.

"Parents" influenced 32.7 per cent of the urban sample or 36 males and 49 females. Group discussions ranked in second place at 16.9 per cent (27 males and 17 females) followed by "relatives" for which 20 males and 23 females attributed their voting choice.

"Family notables" influence fell in the urban sector to 8.1 per cent, having been marked only by 12 males and nine females.

"Friends" accounted for five per cent, males numbered nine compared to only four females.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

Survival and environment are inseparable

By William H. Draper

Years of experience have taught us that the struggle for survival and environmental protection are inseparable. This important connection has not been lost on developing countries where poverty forces people to over-exploit their natural resources — forests, fisheries and minerals.

Recognising the crucial link between poverty and the environment, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has supported countless developing country governments, community groups and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in their efforts to help the world's poor develop more sustainable livelihoods that better protect the environment.

In Mali, previously unemployed university graduates received training, equipment and credit to establish a waste disposal business in the capital city, Bamako. The business has prospered and currently provides garbage removal services for 18,000 residents. In Rajasthan, India, 500 village women have been encouraged to plant and harvest mulberry trees. The trees provide natural fencing and help to anchor the soil against erosion, while also providing the women with income. In Rwanda, concern about a lack of food and cultivatable land prompted women from the Busoro Nutritional Centre to secure financial support to drain marshland so they could create a fruit and fuelwood tree nursery. The nursery has helped to restore the hills of the region and provide new sources of food and income for the women.

Over the last decade, there has been a dramatic increase in grassroots development efforts worldwide. Today, NGO activities are reported to benefit 250 million people, compared with fewer than 100 million in early 1980. The advantages of this kind of community-based participation are clear. But there are limits to how much can be accomplished through such action. Now, more than ever before, it is clear that no global plan to safeguard the planet can hope to be realistic unless it strives to meet the needs and concerns of the poor people living in developing countries. Let us remember that simple fact on this World Environment Day, as we rededicate ourselves to the important goals set forth at Rio de Janeiro.

CARS FOR SALE

An international organisation has for sale 10 cars — customs not paid — to the highest bidder. Specifications are as stated below.

Those interested to see the cars are requested to contact Dolphine Co., at the Amman Customs Department on tel.: No. 755285. Bidders should send their offers not later than 12:00 noon Monday 14. 6. 93 in a sealed envelope marked "cars for sale" to the following address:

P.O.Box 17101, Amman-Jordan

Sealed envelopes will be opened at 1:00 p.m. on 14. 6. 93. For further information please call 691261/2.

- 1) Nissan Patrol 1991, 4WD, A/C, R/C, 6 cylinder, 93,586 KMS, very good condition. **Base price JD 10,000**
- 2) Nissan Patrol 1991, 4WD, A/C, R/C, 6 cylinder, 65,208 KMS, very good condition. **Base price JD 11,000**
- 3) Volvo Station Wagon 1991 A/C, R/C, 4 cylinder, 23,133 KMS, very good condition. **Base price JD 10,000**
- 4) Land Rover 1990, 4WD, RHD, diesel 12, 612 kms, needs maintenance. **Base price JD 5,000/-**
- 5) Suzuki Samurai JX 1990, 4WD, 4 cylinder, 25,938 KMS, needs maintenance. **Base price JD 3,000**
- 6) Nissan Patrol 1991, 25,749 KMS, bad condition. **Base price JD 1,750**
- 7) Nissan Patrol 1991, 8,491 KMS, bad condition. **Base price JD 2,500**
- 8) Nissan Patrol 1991, 32,532 KMS, bad condition. **Base price JD 2,500**
- 9) Nissan Patrol 1991, 8,946 KMS, bad condition. **Base price JD 1,750**
- 10) Nissan Patrol 1991, 31,225 KMS, bad condition. **Base price JD 1,750**

STAGFLATION

Economy

Rouble drops to 1,072 against dollar

MOSCOW (R) — The ailing rouble held its ground against the dollar Friday, trading at 1,072 roubles per dollar on the Moscow Interbank Currency Exchange. "It was the first time this year that supply of dollars had exceeded demand," said exchange spokesman Yuri Shchegolkov. "It is the first positive sign of our new trading tactics."

The exchange, which gives more than 60 banks a chance to buy and sell dollars for roubles, switched to daily currency trading sessions this week. It previously traded the dollar twice a week and the German mark once a week.

Mr. Shchegolkov said \$28.56 million changed hands Friday, down from \$55.5 million Thursday. Initial demand was for \$27.43 million, while banks offered to sell \$28.66 million.

The rouble, under pressure all year from fears that the government and central bank are not doing enough to control inflation, is still trading at a record low against the dollar.

The currency had fallen at 19 consecutive trading sessions before steadyng Friday. It traded at 415 to the dollar in December

1992. Interfax News Agency Friday quoted central bank chairman Viktor Gerashchenko as saying that central bank sales accounted for 46 per cent of sales on the exchange in April and May.

He said central bank currency reserves currently totalled about \$1 billion, up from around \$100 million last year.

Russian Finance Minister Boris Fyodorov complained this week that the central bank had been building up reserves and acquiring gold and hard currency rather than spending cash to support the rouble on the currency market.

The rouble is legal tender in Russia and a handful of other former Soviet republics. It is not freely convertible on world markets.

Meanwhile, Russia has taken new steps to rein in soaring inflation, promising to freeze central and local spending from July 1 and telling authorities not to do anything which could endanger 1993's budget plans.

"The council of ministers must, within two weeks, introduce proposals to repeal all decisions taken in 1993... which lead to growth in budgetary expendi-

ture," said a decree from President Boris Yeltsin reported by his press service.

But at the same time a government meeting pledged to spend two trillion roubles (about \$2 billion) and \$3 billion in hard currency in the next three years to help convert Russia's vast military-industrial complex to civilian use.

The meeting postponed discussion for two weeks on a proposal to raise coal prices sharply soon and on a second, apparently contradictory suggestion to bring in new price controls, Interfax News Agency said.

Reformers in the Russian government, led by Mr. Fyodorov, want budgetary spending slashed to fulfil its share of a deal with the central bank aimed at bringing monthly inflation below five per cent by the end of 1993.

"Our financial policy has been very strict," Mr. Fyodorov told foreign reporters Wednesday. "There is not a single ministry in Russia ready to say a good word about the finance ministry right now."

Russian inflation was more than 2,600 per cent last year, and consumer prices rose 17 per cent

in April alone.

But other ministers in Mr. Yeltsin's government want to keep subsidies and price controls in certain spheres, such as energy.

Russia launched its economic reforms in January last year, lifting most of the price controls it inherited from the former Soviet Union and then moving to sell off state-owned firms in a vast privatisation campaign.

But wrangling between ministers and the central bank and fierce debate within the government itself have thrown a question mark over the speed of the country's move towards a free market.

The contradictory proposals on the table at the government meeting were mirrored by similar apparent contradictions in Mr. Yeltsin's decree, which said "socially important" expenditure would be indexed to cope with rising prices and spending not included in the 1993 budget could be implemented from August.

It was not clear from the decree how the government could declare a moratorium on higher spending at the same time as allowing some expenditure to

rise.

The economic reforms led to a sharp decline in industrial production last year, and Energy Minister Yuri Shafranik was quoted Thursday as saying that the oil sector barely had enough cash to pay salaries, let alone carry out new surveys.

He told the weekly Moscow News that oil output would continue to decline next year, but it could start to rise in 1995 if Russia's financial system improved and economic reforms were conducted properly.

"If we fail to take corrective action, we will begin a process of decline which would be difficult to reverse," Mr. Singh recently told state power ministers.

A European Community report estimated that demand for electricity is growing annually by 12 per cent outstripping the eight per cent hike in supply.

To raise output the Indian government has opened up the power sector to domestic and foreign private firms and dangled incentives such as a five-year tax holiday and an assured return on investments.

Of the additional 35,140 megawatts of electricity to be generated during 1992-97, the government will count on the private sector for some 6,000 megawatts.

The situation in the Indian capital, where residents consume

Power shortfalls hamper Indian economic takeoff

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — A power crunch is threatening to short-circuit India's economic reforms prompting dire warnings from Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao and Finance Minister Manmohan Singh, the architect of the ambitious package.

"If we fail to take corrective action, we will begin a process of decline which would be difficult to reverse," Mr. Singh recently told state power ministers.

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DESU argues that its hands are chronically in the red, and the Badarpur thermal power station.

Badarpur officials have threatened DESU with a cut-off of power unless the board paid the arrears. They said they need the money to purchase coal and other inputs to run their own plant, and reduced supply by a fifth.

On April 7, DESU paid the power station a mere \$6.7 million

after the warning. In the last

financial year 1992-93 which ended in March it had cleared a total of \$333 million.

DESU argues that its hands are strapped as its subsidised power

tariffs are insufficient to meet costs.

DESU General Manager

Ashok Pradhan, and his coun-

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ter N. K. P. Salve who pulled up

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India's total exports grew by

3.6 per cent in 1992/93, primarily

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India announced changes in its

export-import policy on March

31, offering concessions to agri-

cultural exporters and the ser-

vices sector. It also removed 144

items from a so-called "negative

list" of products banned for ex-

port.

At a conference in western

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ciency" were to blame for the

heavy losses run up by electricity

boards. Raising tariffs was a "soft

option" he rejected.

Mr. Salve suggested that DE-

SU's distribution network should

be privatised to ensure smoother

supply. Industry estimates that

about 19 per cent power is lost in

transmission.

DESU has announced that indus-

tries could not be run between

6.30 p.m. and 9.30 p.m. and

banned the use of air conditioners

during the peak hours. It also

forbade neon lights in advertise-

ment hoardings.

"Electricity goes off without

warning for four to five hours

every day," complained a manu-

facturer of electronic goods.

"We have to rearrange shifts to

suit the 'load shedding' schedules.

Our profits are lower but

production costs are up," he said.

The burning summer months

are marked by lean power gen-

eration as falling water levels

affect the output of India's

numerous hydro-electricity plants

and the demand for electricity

shoots up.

But the power situation has

been aggravated this year by the

tussle between the Delhi State

Electricity Undertaking (DESU),

which like most state power

boards is chronically in the red,

and the Badarpur thermal power

station.

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China arms conglomerate seeks overseas investment

BELTING (R) — China's biggest arms manufacturer is seeking as much as \$900 million in foreign investment to expand in the civilian market, the official China Daily has said.

The China North Industries Group (Norinco), which makes everything from machineguns and armoured vehicles to toasters and motorcycles, is looking for foreign cash to help it move into upmarket civilian machinery and to boost its car production facilities.

"We're confident we can attract at least \$300 million worth of foreign investment this year," said Liu Tieping, deputy director of Norinco's development planning department.

"By 1993, we will have set up 200 joint ventures in a wide range of sectors," he pointed out.

Mr. Liu said the company planned to announce a total of 170 business plans for foreign investment at a ceremony in Hong Kong this month.

"That package includes not only machinery projects but a wide spectrum of other civilian ones, including real estate," the China Daily said.

With its strong military connections, Norinco is one of China's most powerful companies and biggest arms exporters. Its annual weapons sales averaged about \$1.5 billion during the 1980s.

A large conglomerate of over 300 separate enterprises and total

fixed assets of 10 billion yuan (\$1.72 billion), Norinco is already at the forefront of China's efforts to reorient lumbering military factories toward civilian purposes.

Civilian goods such as machine tools, chemicals and refrigerators already account for almost two-thirds of the company's sales, including a big chunk of China's motorcycle and mini-van production.

The main thrust of Norinco's current search for overseas investment is aimed at car production.

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A large conglomerate of over 300 separate enterprises and total

Image of spendthrift east Germans untrue, Bundesbank report says

FRANKFURT (AFP) — The popular image of east Germans being many west Germans — that the "Ossis" (easterners) are silly spendthrifts, throwing money away on cars and consumer toys — is simply untrue, according to the latest Bundesbank report.

In fact, east Germans are fanatical savers, stashing money away in mortgage and home improvement plans in order to invest in land and property, in true "West" (western) style, the report has revealed.

Despite fast-rising unemployment, the savings of east Germans rose by around 58 per cent in only two and a half years, the central bank's monthly report said.

However, east German savings at 190 billion marks, represent only 5.2 per cent of total German savings of 3,600 billion marks, it said.

East Germans account for about a fifth of Germany's population of 80 million. But unemployment in the region affects about one in three. If phenomena such as short-time working, early retirement and job retraining are taken into account, joblessness was negligible three years ago.

Investment in Germany rose by 27 billion marks last year to reach 318 billion marks, mainly because banks lent more to east German entrepreneurs, the Bundesbank said.

This was mainly due to the big boost in east Germany, where

savers are squirreling away as much money as possible in order to gain quicker access to bank loans to buy new homes or refurbish an apartment.

Normally a bank in Germany requires an applicant to save regularly for at least five years before it gives out a big loan at a preferential rate.

But east Germans are rushing to use a so-called "fast track" approach, in which they put down between 40 and 50 per cent of the target sum immediately, and pay the rest within two to three years.

However, east German savings at 190 billion marks, represent only 5.2 per cent of total German savings of 3,600 billion marks, it said.

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Daimler sees way out of its troubles next year

STUTTGART, Germany (R) — Daimler-Benz A.G. faces deep difficulties as the German economy turns down but the country's biggest industrial concern expects business to start recovering next year, management board chairman Edzard Reuter has said.

The company...finds itself in a difficult phase of its development," he told the annual shareholders meeting.

In the first four months of 1993, group turnover fell almost 20 per cent, reaching barely 26 billion marks (\$16 billion).

Business developments at the Mercedes-Benz A.G. car division — which normally makes up two-thirds of Daimler's sales — were the main cause of the fall. There were also smaller downturns at planemaker Deutsche Aerospace and its electronics unit AEG A.G.

The group had had to reduce its workforce by 18,000 last year

to a total of 376,000 and would have to cut a further 15,000 jobs in 1993. Nevertheless, Daimler believed a turnaround would begin next year, Mr. Reuter said.

Despite the downturn, Daimler hoped to be able to pay an unchanged dividend of 13 marks (\$7.99) a share on 1993 results.

The chairman saw a chance for an improvement in business in the rest of this year compared to the first quarter of 1993, when group net profits fell by a massive 95 per cent to just 20 million marks (\$12.29 million).

That would not be a result of an economic upturn, but of the hoped-for sales success of the new Mercedes compact C-class car range and also because one-off financial charges would not recur. He did not doubt the C-class, which goes on sale this month replacing the 190, would be an "unusual success".

The group had had to reduce its workforce by 18,000 last year

Japan to recycle \$120 billion of trade surplus

AMSTERDAM (R) — A fierce struggle among airlines to entice passengers into empty seats resulted in Dutch flag-carrier KLM reporting its second big annual loss in three years Thursday.

And, with no respite in sight,

KLM reports \$313m loss

KLM said in order to meet increased demand for economy class, it would rearrange seats on its 27 Boeing 747s, replacing 26 business-class seats with 39 economy from July, and phasing out royal (first) class seats on its 747s from the autumn.

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines made a loss of 563 million guilders (\$313 million) in the year to March 31, and said it would not pay a dividend. Last year it made a profit of 125 million (\$70 million) and paid a one guilder (55 cent) dividend.

"KLM's cost side is doing well and they are gaining market share, but it is simply outpaced by the low fares in economy and the shift away from business and first-class travel," said analyst Dick van der Kloos of Brokers Amstel.

He said the company would

re-examine its routes and flight

frequency, perhaps eliminating

some routes altogether.

Analysts hope to see some re-

covery by the end of the current

year, but not soon enough to stop

KLM racking up further losses of as much as 240 million guilders (\$134 million) this year.

Two years ago KLM lost 630 million guilders (\$352 million) as the Gulf war kept passengers away. When they returned, a fares war broke out which shows no signs of abating.

Recession-hit companies have cut back on costly executive air travel and switched to cheaper economy seats where possible. This coincided with extra seat capacity as the jets ordered in a late 1980s buying binge are delivered.

Airlines have slashed fares to unprecedented levels to fill those seats and few are making any money.

"Santy says this has to end, but we see no sign of it so far," said Amstel's Van Der Kloos.

Swiss SMH profits jump 64%

BERNE (R) — SMH, Switzerland's biggest watchmaker and best known for its battery-powered plastic "Swatch,"

Thursday reported a 64 per cent jump in 1992 profit and said it hoped for more gains this year.

Group net profit rose to 413 million Swiss francs (\$290 million) in 1992 from 252 million francs (\$177 million) in 1991, with sales up at 2.85 billion francs (\$2 billion) against 2.37 billion francs (\$1.67 billion).

"We hope we shall record a considerable increase in profit and sales this year," chief executive Nicolas Hayek told a news conference.

SMH (STE Suisse Microelectronique et d'Horlogerie S.A.) said sales in its first four months of 1993 were about 16 per cent

higher than a year ago, with profit rising more strongly.

The company's core business remains watches, but it is branching into other activities, such as mobile telephones and paging devices. It also has plans for a new environmentally friendly city car, called the Swatch car.

German car giant Volkswagen A.G. (V.W.) was involved in the project until it dropped out in January due to cuts in its investment programme, and now SMH is looking for replacement.

Mr. Hayek said SMH was negotiating with two car manufacturers and he hoped to say by the end of 1992 which replace V.W. He declined to name them, but said neither was Asian.

"We want a partner who won't question everything we've done so far... we believe the car can be ready in 1996," he said.

SMH has put 20 million francs (\$14 million) so far in the project to make a two-seater car powered by an electric engine or a hybrid engine that switches between electricity and petrol.

Mr. Hayek said the car would be built in Europe though an assembly plant might be set up later in the United States.

He said his company's cash reserves had risen to more than 800 million francs (\$560 million) by the end of May and might exceed one billion francs (\$700 million) by the end of the year.

But he stressed SMH had no plans for a major acquisition, preferring to invest internally in new products and factories.

Accord with Egypt eludes World Bank, IMF

CAIRO (R) — A joint negotiating team from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank left this week without reaching agreement on a new set of economic reforms, Western economists said Thursday.

Egypt's stand-by facility with the IMF ran out at the end of last month and it needs a new agreement to qualify for nearly \$4 billion of debt forgiveness from Western creditors.

The bank and the fund, trying to make Egypt's two-year shift towards a free market economy irreversible by engaging it in new reform programmes, are arguing that structural reforms, privatisation and trade liberalisation should speed up.

The two sides have been in constant high-level contact for two months. A joint IMF and World Bank team left Cairo last Saturday after two weeks of talks and economists said dialogue would continue either with further visits or by phone.

The IMF wants to engage Egypt in a two to three year agreement that would fix further fiscal deficit targets and cover revenue gathering measures such as sales and income tax.

Economists said talks on this might drag on into July or August. Egypt looks like meeting this year's deficit target of 3.5 per cent of gross domestic product but the IMF is also concerned at delays in the World Bank's structural adjustment programme, particularly privatisation.

A new World Bank agreement was likely to take much longer, possibly until the end of the year, the economists said.

The economists said the delay would not jeopardise the debt forgiveness. The IMF would brief Paris Club creditors who would simply put off discussing it.

"The forgiveness is just a formality, the next tranche of debt is not 'hot,'" said one economist.

Western creditors have pledged 50 per cent debt forgiveness — at least \$10 billion — in three stages if Egypt carries out IMF reforms.

They granted 15 per cent when the first agreements were signed in 1991 and have promised another 15 per cent when the second set of agreements are signed and a final 20 per cent at

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Sihanouk cancels faction meeting citing illness

PHNOM PENH (R) — Prince Norodom Sihanouk, after his abortive attempt to set up a coalition government, has called off a meeting of rival Cambodian factions citing ill health, a U.N. official said Friday.

Three factions were due to meet under Prince Sihanouk's chairmanship in Phnom Penh Saturday to discuss crucial details of political transition after U.N.-run elections won by the royalist opposition.

"The prince is taken ill," said the U.N. official, who asked not to be identified.

The head of state's illness comes after he attempted Thursday to set up a coalition government uniting the victorious Royalist Party led by his son Prince Norodom Ranariddh and the encumbent Vietnamese-installed government.

The Hanoi-backed Cambodia People's Party (CPP) claimed election fraud and warned of violent insurrection when it became clear it was losing the vote count.

Prince Ranariddh never publicly approved his father's plan and Prince Sihanouk announced Friday that he was shelving the idea, which would have given all the country's top posts including control of the armed forces.

The factional meeting was to have involved the Royalist Party, the Phnom Penh government and another opposition faction.

Prince Sihanouk's sudden declaration that he was to form a government upset the Royalist FUNCINPEC. Royalist officials

said it disrupted the democratic process that Cambodians had sacrificed so much for.

His equally abrupt about face left the 14-year-old Phnom Penh government smarting as it reluctantly took up again the administration of the 80 per cent of Cambodia it controls.

"We are not happy," General Pan Thay, chief spokesman for Phnom Penh's armed forces said Friday. "We need Prince Sihanouk. We support a new government like yesterday, but it seems Prince (Norodom) Ranariddh does not accept the proposal."

Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen and Prince Ranariddh, leader of the Royalist FUNCINPEC Party, were designated deputy prime ministers in the still-born government, announced before the final vote count was in.

FUNCINPEC had spoken of including the radical Khmer Rouge faction in a coalition government, but had given up that goal, said the CPP, it's violently opposed to the idea.

Analysts said excluding the Maoists who hold sway over a fifth of the country and favouring its Hanoi-installed enemies meant a return to Cambodia's 13-year habit of civil war.

With virtually all the ballots counted Friday in elections organised by the United Nations after 14 months of fragile ceasefire, FUNCINPEC had 45.3 per cent of the vote and the CPP 38.7 per cent, U.N. officials said.

Under the original Paris peace plan signed in 1991 by all factions, voting would lead to forma-

tion of a National Assembly which would spend up to three months writing a new constitution. Only then would a new government be formed.

Many including staunch supporters of FUNCINPEC, a French acronym for National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperative Cambodia, have said Prince Sihanouk's move amounts to a constitutional coup.

Officials in FUNCINPEC, headed by Prince Sihanouk himself until he became neutral head of state in 1991, said Prince Ranariddh had accepted his father's government but had suggested a cabinet should not be formed until after the election results.

He also objected to sharing power with certain Phnom Penh figures whom he linked with the killing of FUNCINPEC activists during the election campaign, the party officials said.

Prince Sihanouk said by pulling the two main contenders together he had been trying to stave off new fighting. That became a real possibility when the CPP, seeing they were trailing their rivals in the vote count, threatened not to accept the result.

U.N. spokesman Eric Falt said efforts to establish order in the vacuum before a government can be formed would be stepped up.

He said the Phnom Penh government was capable of keeping its armed forces and police from causing trouble.

"I'm not so sure of that," a government official said.

Prince Sihanouk announced Friday that he was to form a government upset the Royalist FUNCINPEC. Royalist officials

Germany holds more arson suspects

BONN (R) — German police have arrested three more skinhead suspects in connection with the Solingen arson attack which killed five Turks at the weekend, security officials said.

The officials said Federal Prosecutor Alexander Von Stahl told a closed-door parliamentary committee meeting that three active right-wing extremists had been arrested on suspicion of setting fire to the Turks' house Saturday.

Police are already holding a 16-year-old boy from Solingen who they believe started the fire.

The officials, who asked not to be named, said the three suspects were 16, 19 and 23 years old, had been planning an attack on foreigners for a while and were drunk at the time.

Mr. Stahl's office in Karlsruhe, which Tuesday had to retract an earlier statement that four skinheads were being sought as accomplices to the crime, declined any comment before a rare press conference set for Saturday

morning.

"For the time being no statements to the press will be made in this matter," he said in a statement faxed to journalists even before the reports of the new arrest surfaced.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl has argued the Solingen attack was the work of a single disturbed youth, but President Richard von Weizsaecker strongly disputed that Thursday in his speech at funeral services for the five murdered Turks.

The murders of Moelln and Solingen are not unrelated isolated atrocities. They spring from a climate generated by the extreme right," he said, referring also to the arson attack in Moelln last November in which three Turks were killed.

"Extreme right-wing violence, however mindless it might appear, is politically motivated. It has increased," the president said.

"It is an anarchist terrorism of a special type which seeks de-

fenseless victims in order to hit the democratic state."

Mr. Kohl, who did not attend the funeral service in Cologne despite appeals from Turkish community leaders and many Bonn politicians to do so, had a meeting Friday with senior Turkish officials who came to Germany for the service.

An opinion poll for RTL Television said 62 per cent of those surveyed felt he should have attended the service.

Reflecting political differences

on the issue, it said 78 per cent of the opposition Social Democrats polled criticised him for staying away from the ceremony while only 46 per cent of Mr. Kohl's own Christian Democrat voters wanted him to attend.

Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, who just after the Solingen attack, argued against the Turkish community's demand for dual citizenship, dropped his doubts and came out clearly for extending nationality rights to long-term foreign residents.

N. Korea orders all foreigners out

TOKYO (R) — North Korea, fast approaching an international deadline to allow nuclear inspections, has ordered all foreigners except accredited diplomats to leave the country by June 15, Kyodo News Agency reported Friday.

Quoting well-placed sources versed in North Korea-Japan relations, the Japanese agency said the order included ethnic Koreans from Japan.

Pyongyang had also decided to suspend issuing all entry visas until the end of July, Kyodo added.

The agency's sources suggested Pyongyang might have taken the step in connection with North Korea's talks with the United States over its decision to withdraw from the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT) with effect from June 12.

Stalinist Pyongyang's announced pullout from the treaty followed its refusal to allow the U.N. nuclear watchdog body to inspect two military sites believed to hold proof of a covert nuclear weapons programme.

North Korea denies developing

any such arms, but U.S. and other intelligence services believe it has either already produced or is on the brink of producing a crude device.

Kyodo said the pro-Pyongyang General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryon) told its local chapters of North Korea's decision late last month.

The agency's sources said Japanese-based Koreans engaged in bilateral trade and Japan-North Korea joint enterprises were included in the order.

Meanwhile chances that the two Koreas will resume cross-border dialogue receded Friday when the North rejected the South's conditions for talks aimed at reducing cold war tension.

In a phone call to South Korean authorities, the North proposed meeting next Tuesday at the border village of Panmunjom and urged Seoul "not to attach conditions to the North's proposal... but to approach it with sincerity."

But the South's suggestion for a Saturday meeting ignored the call from North Korean Prime Minister Kang Song-San, appeared adamant it would insist

that the North's offer on the current terms.

Guatemalan army 'will not' take power

GUATEMALA CITY (R) — The army has distanced itself from Guatemala's messy political struggle and said it had no intention of taking power as public opposition mounted to Vice President Gustavo Espina's bid to replace ousted President Jorge Serrano.

"The political game allowed by the democratic system is the responsibility of the political sector," said Navy Captain Julio Alberto Yon, the military spokesman.

"At no moment does the army intend to exercise power in the country," he said.

As he spoke, more than 3,000 people, mainly students, marched to the National Palace to protest that the power shifts of the past days were a farce for military rule.

It was the biggest demonstra-

tion since Guatemala's crisis began when Mr. Serrano suspended the constitution, dissolved Congress and began ruling by decree on May 25.

Capt. Yon's position appeared to mark a shift from Wednesday, when Defence Minister Jose Garcia Samayoa said the army was backing Vice President Gustavo Espina to replace Mr. Serrano.

"The Guatemalan army supports constitutional institutions. We are not mentioning names of people, just institutions," Capt. Yon said when asked if the army still supported Mr. Espina.

Mr. Espina declared himself president Wednesday, the day after the military engineered Mr. Serrano's ouster, ending Mr. Serrano's week-long near-dictatorial rule.

Mr. Espina's position was already weakened by his failure to find enough support in Con-

gress for his swearing-in and by legal proceedings against him by the attorney general for supporting Mr. Serrano in his seizure of unconstitutional powers.

"It's not possible that one of the people who broke the constitution becomes president. That's ridiculous," Attorney General Edgar Tuna told Reuters, adding that the Supreme Court had put the case against Mr. Espina in the hands of the Congress.

Mr. Espina Thursday met political and business leaders to try to build a consensus in Congress to swear him in and presumably to put an end to the charges against him.

"This is nothing short of com-

plete and utter chaos. The same old political mafias are cutting deals behind closed doors," one diplomat said.

This was an indication that



A young woman, holding her two children, is evacuated aboard a rescue plane from Tskvarcheli in the breakaway Republic of Abkhazia. (AFP photo)

Fighting in Abkhazia stops relief flights

TBILISI, Georgia (AP) — Fighting between Abkhazian separatists and Georgian troops left more than a dozen people dead and halted humanitarian aid shipments to a besieged city. Georgia sources said.

Georgia accuses Russia of interfering in the civil war to aid the Abkhazians. Russia denies it.

A ceasefire agreement was reached on May 14 between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze.

He said Abkhazian militants killed two Georgian soldiers in an offensive that began Wednesday night, and 11 people died in subsequent fighting, including four who were run over by an armoured personnel carrier.

Georgian military officials said Thursday that separatist attacks had killed about 50 people in the past week. In apparent retaliation, Georgia cut off a Russian airift of humanitarian aid to the Abkhazian-held city of Tskvarcheli.

Georgian military officials said on Wednesday, four Russian helicopters had brought about eight tonnes of food and medicine to Tskvarcheli and took out 106 civilian refugees.

Clinton drops civil rights nomination in new setback

WASHINGTON (R) — In a move that enraged the civil rights community, President Bill Clinton withdrew the nomination of black law professor Lani Guinier as his civil rights enforcer. Prof. Guinier insisted Friday "I could have been confirmed."

In abandoning her nomination, Mr. Clinton conceded he had not read her legal writings.

Even so, Prof. Guinier said that Mr. Clinton, a friend for two decades, believed her hearings would have been racially divisive.

Critics had focused on her legal writings for allegedly advocating a minority "veto" over political decisions crucial to minorities, undermining the concept of democratic majority rule.

Mr. Clinton withdrew her nomination late Thursday, saying her views would have been "very difficult to defend" against Senate critics.

"I'm convinced that the administration has taken a giant step backward," said Kwesi Mfume, the Democrat who chairs the congressional Black Caucus.

Clinton's withdrawal of the nomination, the latest crisis in his beleaguered presidency, drew angry outcries from the civil rights community.

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Sports

Sonics, Suns clash in game 7 today

SEATTLE (AP) — The Seattle SuperSonics shacked Charles Barkley and Dan Majerle Thursday night, beating the Suns 118-102 and forcing a game 7 of the Western Conference finals in Phoenix.

Barkley, who scored 43 points in game 5 Tuesday night, was limited to 13 points on 4-of-14 shooting. Majerle, also a hero in that Phoenix victory with 34 points and eight 3-pointers, was held to 12 points and one 3-pointer on 4-of-11 shooting.

"(Barkley) didn't have the aggressiveness as high as he did the other night," Seattle's Michael Cage said. "No 3-point bombs from Majerle tonight. We thought we had to extend pressure on him."

On Thursday night, Seattle Ricky Pierce scored 27 points and Shawn Kemp had 22 points and 15 rebounds.

With the best-of-7 series tied 3-3, the Sonics and the Suns will play Saturday in Phoenix to decide the winner.

Phoenix is trying to make the NBA finals for the first time since 1976, while Seattle hasn't played in the championship round since 1979.

"If you can't get up for the seventh game, you can't get up at all," Kemp said. "There isn't any pressure at this point. Everyone wants to make it. It's just who wants to win more."

In an emotion-charged game, Kevin Johnson had 22 points for the Suns, including his team's first 11 of the fourth quarter.

Sam Perkins added 18 points for Seattle, including four 3-pointers, and Derrick McKey and Gary Payton had 16 each.

It was the first time in the series that all five of Seattle's starters scored in double figures.

The game was decided early in the fourth quarter when the Sonics outscored the Suns 11-4 in the first 4:51 for a 97-79 lead with 6:21 to go. Kemp had a pair of baskets in the run.

The Suns got a second-half lift from Cedric Ceballos, who did not play in the first half, then scored eight quick points in the third period. Then he aggravated an injury to his left foot and was carried off the court by teammates Jerrod Mustaf and Frank Johnson just 4:08 into the quarter, with Seattle leading 71-63.

The Suns, who beat the Los Angeles Lakers in five games and San Antonio in six, looked tired and frustrated in the second quarter.



Sonics' Eddie Johnson No. 8 soars up for a layup

While as Seattle scored five fast-break baskets to lead 61-50 at halftime, The Sonics scored 19 of their first-half points off 11 turnovers.

Pierce scored seven of his nine first-quarter points in a 13-4 run that gave Seattle a 21-12 lead, but the Suns responded with an 8-0 run of their own.

New York has hard road to win Eastern Conference finals

While the two-time champion Chicago Bulls have the distractions, the New York Knicks have the hard road to win the Eastern Conference finals.

Having lost the home-court advantage in Wednesday night's 97-94 defeat in New York, the Knicks must win Friday night in Chicago Stadium to force a seventh game at Madison Square Garden Sunday.

Otherwise, the Bulls will advance to the NBA finals with a chance to become the third team in league history to win three straight championships.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Group D World Cup qualifying round begins today

SEOUL (AP) — The second round of World Cup soccer Asia Group D qualifications begins Saturday in Seoul with an opening match between Bahrain and Lebanon. Sports officials here predicted South Korea will easily qualify for the next round as it seeks a third straight slot in World Cup finals next year for the first time as an Asian nation. In the first round in Lebanon, South Korea finished at the top of the five-team table with three wins and one draw. Hong Kong was second with a 2-1 record, followed by Bahrain's 1-2-1. Lebanon and India were almost disqualified with no wins.

Hoddle moves from Swindon to Chelsea

LONDON (AP) — Four days after guiding Swindon to English soccer's Premier League, Glenn Hoddle Friday joined Chelsea as manager. Reports say the 35-year-old former England star also may register as a player. Capped 53 times by his country, the stylish former Tottenham and Monaco midfielder scored the first goal as Swindon reached the top flight Monday with a 4-3 victory over Leicester in the division one playoff at Wembley. Next season, his new club will be

playing against his former team. Hoddle has gained a reputation of promoting attractive soccer and said his decision to leave Swindon was "hard and emotional."

Ukraine wins in European basketball

WROCŁAW, Poland (AP) — Ukraine defeated Belarus and Croatia rolled over Latvia in the first semifinal match Thursday of the European Basketball Championship qualifying tournament. The fifth day of the round-robin play also brought confirmation from the International Basketball Federation that Yugoslavia, the defending European champion, will not be allowed to participate in the finals opening June 23 in Germany. Five teams from the tournament will qualify for the finals.

American fails to swim from Cuba to U.S.

MIAMI (AP) — An American environmentalist trying to swim from Cuba to the United States was plucked from the sea Thursday after he encountered strong winds and currents. Skip Storch, a 35-year-old from New York state, was cheered on by Cuban President Fidel Castro when he left Havana on Wednesday.

Final French soccer standings

Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Marseille	38	23	9	6	72	36	55
Paris-SG	38	20	11	7	61	29	51
Moscou	38	21	9	8	56	29	51
Bordeaux	38	18	12	8	42	25	48
Nantes	38	17	11	10	54	39	45
Amerre	38	18	7	13	57	44	42
Saint-Etienne	38	13	17	8	34	26	43
Strasbourg	38	12	16	10	58	57	40
Les	38	12	16	10	36	41	40
Montpellier	38	12	12	14	36	41	36
Paris	38	13	9	16	55	54	35
Metz	38	11	13	14	44	45	35
Colombe	38	9	16	13	36	45	34
...	38	9	15	14	40	45	33
Le Havre	38	11	11	16	42	53	33
...	38	11	10	17	33	50	32
...	38	7	16	15	26	48	29
...	38	9	11	18	42	57	29
...	38	6	13	19	31	57	25
...	38	3	16	19	32	66	22

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Courier downs Krajicek; Graf reclaims No. 1 spot

Fernandez style change pays off

PARIS (Agencies) — Jim Courier moved to within one match of his third straight French Open title, blasting service returns and passing shots past net-charging Richard Krajicek to win their semifinal Friday in four sets.

Courier, the strong favourite here despite his No. 2 seeding, was in control for all but a few moments of his 6-1, 6-7 (7-2), 7-5, 6-2 victory.

He will play for the title Sunday against the winner of the second semifinal between 10th-seeded Sergi Bruguera of Spain and No. 11 Andrei Medvedev of Ukraine, two baseline players seeking their first berth in a Grand Slam final.

Courier was so dominant and Krajicek so uncomfortable in the first set that an embarrassing rout appeared likely. But the 6-foot-5 (1.96-metre) Dutchman, determined to stick with his serve-and-volley tactics, began volleying better in the second set and succeeded briefly in animating the centre-court crowd.

Even though Krajicek hit 10 aces in the match, Courier was able to get the service breaks he needed — two in the third set and two in the fourth. Eleven times he fired back service returns for winners, 13 times he scored on passing shots as Krajicek reached the net.

Krajicek also hit a few deadly service returns. One in the third set was so powerful that Courier watched it fly by, then bowed in mock awe to his rival.

On the women's side, a radical change of playing style paid off spectacularly for Mary Joe Fernandez who reached her first ever French Open final Friday.

Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, the most successful women's circuit player this season, had no answer to the new, aggressive Fernandez. She was blasted off court 6-2, 6-2 in their semi-final.

Meanwhile, Steffi Graf recaptured her world No. 1 status in 1976, has been surprised by how quickly Fernandez has adapted her game.

"When we set last year I told her that I thought it would take her three years to become a

ing teenage compatriot Anne Huber for the loss of only two games.

"The ranking doesn't matter at all."

Graf, who beat Anke Huber 6-1, 6-1, was the only favourite to survive on a bleak day of grey skies and surprises. She will now play Fernandez for the title she won back in 1987 and 1988.

Fernandez, who now plays the biggest match of her career Saturday said she was inspired by her fightback from 1-6, 1-5 down to beat Gabriela Sabatini in the quarter-final.

"I started off the way I was finishing my last match," Fernandez said. "Right from the start I decided that was the way I had to play."

Fernandez has been in the top 10 for the last three years, briefly rising to number four in 1990. But her baseline style never seriously threatened to lift her to the very top level occupied by Graf, Monica Seles, Martina Navratilova and, lately, Sanchez.

Under the guidance of coach Harold Solomon, Fernandez set out last year to rebuild her game.

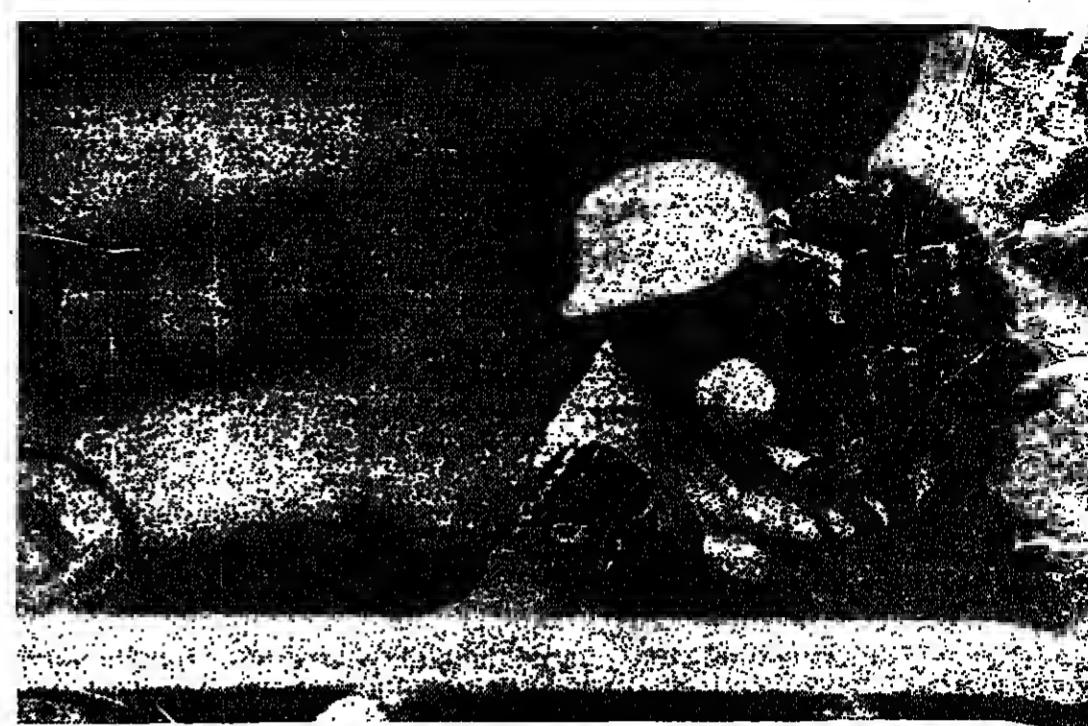
She accepts she was stuck in a defensive style learnt in childhood when Chris Evert was the model for every young American girl with ambitions in tennis.

"Since I was a little girl, I was taught you've got to hit the ball back and not make many mistakes — it takes a long time to change that," admitted Fernandez, who was born in the Dominican Republic but brought up in Florida.

"Harold showed me how the top players and why they win. He convinced me that if I wanted to make the breakthrough this was the way to go. My old game style wasn't really going to let me do that — he just drilled it into my head and asked me to take a chance."

Solomon, a singles finalist here in 1976, has been surprised by how quickly Fernandez has adapted her game.

"When we set last year I told her that I thought it would take her three years to become a



Richard Krajicek goes for a forehand in his match against Jim Courier Friday (AFP photo)

top three player and be in a position to win Grand Slams.

"But I watched her practicing this morning and she was hitting the ball the best she ever has. So I told her — now you are ready."

Asked about that remark Fernandez replied: "I believe him."

Solomon has not only worked on Fernandez on court. He has also hired Jim Courier's trainer Pat Etcheberry to build up his slender student's upper body strength. "She probably needs about another seven pounds of muscle before she has got the strength to match the top players week-in-week-out," Solomon said.

Graf admitted that the extent to which Fernandez went for her shots against Sabatini had surprised her. "I have never seen her doing it that much. She stepped into the ball and was going a lot for the lines and she did it very well. The way she's playing, she shows a lot of confidence."

Graf, who had never lost a set to 18-year-old Huber in five pre-

vious encounters before their clash, once again played faultless tennis.

But she has made it clear from the start that rankings would be meaningless until her great rival, Monica Seles, returns to the tour.

Graf, who has played in five of the last six finals here, said: "I don't think Anke played up to her best today. But she was playing in her first Grand Slam semi-final and that puts you under a lot of pressure."

Graf has now won 72 of the 109 tournaments she has played since 1986, and against Fernandez she will be bidding to win a 12th Grand Slam singles crown.

Medvedev may pose biggest threat to Courier's reign

Joining two-time defending champion Jim Courier in the French Open semifinals are a trio

of lower seeds each hoping to reach their first Grand Slam match.

Of the three contenders, 18-year-old Andrei Medvedev could be the strongest challenge, even though playing only his third Grand Slam event. He easily disarmed Stefan Edberg's serve-and-volley game in a four-set quarterfinal victory.

Bruguera put up a solid defense.

Medvedev, who won the French Open junior title two years ago and made the fourth round last year, has developed into a rising star, especially on clay. The Ukrainian has won five titles on the surface, two this year, and has beaten Bruguera three times met on clay.

Medvedev outplayed Edberg with delicate lobs and blistering passing shots. He won the first set in 16 minutes before rain halted play Wednesday, and completed a 6-0, 6-7 (4-7), 7-5, 6-4 victory Thursday.

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Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦Q842 ♦A1074 ♦K643

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♠ 1 NT ?

Egypt says major militant plot foiled

CIRO (Agencies) — Egypt says it has foiled a Muslim militant plot to assassinate 10 public figures and carry out bomb attacks during the 'Eid Al Adha holiday.

Interior Minister Hassan Mohammad Al Alfie told the semi-official Al Ahram newspaper in an interview Friday 30 militant leaders and their aides were arrested earlier this month in a security sweep in Cairo and five other provinces.

A large cache of arms and explosives was found, he said.

"All of the terrorist masterminds... were arrested. A similar number of their aids were also detained two weeks before the start (on Monday) of 'Eid Al Adha (feast of sacrifice)," he said.

General Alfi said the group had planned to kill 10 senior political and public figures, blow up vital economic installations and bomb six crowded public squares in Cairo and railway lines during the holiday, one of the most important Islamic festivals.

He did not name those targeted but said that after the plot was uncovered a new security strategy was drawn up to protect officials, prominent figures, mosques, churches and key bridges and installations.

Gen. Alfi told Al Ahram that the plot had been hatched abroad by Egyptian militants, including Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, some of whose alleged followers are implicated in the World Trade Centre bombing in New York.

The suspects also planned to carry out bombings against railroads and other targets in Cairo, the Nile Delta and southern Egypt, he told the pro-government daily.

The seized material, some of it Soviet-made, was of the type used in Afghanistan, where hundreds of Egyptian fundamentalists fought with the Islamic resistance against the former Soviet occupation, he added.

Apart from Sheikh Abdul Rahman, who has lived in the United States for two years, Egyptian authorities said militants travelling.

Alleged Bush plotters go on trial amid human rights fears

KUWAIT (AP) — Fourteen Iraqis and Kuwaitis go on trial in the state security court Saturday for allegedly plotting to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush, but human rights activists fear the men will not be properly defended.

"As far as we know, they haven't been seen by lawyers... and the investigations were done without legal counsel present although Kuwaiti law entitles a prisoner to a lawyer during investigation," said Aziz Abu Hamad, associate Director of Middle East Watch, a New York-based human rights organisation.

"We have documented in the past that the state security police have mistreated prisoners by depriving them of sleep and burning them with cigarette butts," he said in a telephone interview.

Kuwaitis revere Mr. Bush for leading the 33-nation coalition that liberated the emirate Feb. 26, 1991, after seven months of occupation by Iraq and newspapers have already branded the defendants as Iraqi agents.

Kuwaiti authorities arrested the alleged hit team April 13, one day before Mr. Bush and his entourage arrived for a three-day visit to receive the thanks of Kuwaitis.

Security authorities say the alleged plot was organised by Iraq's intelligence service. Baghdad denies that and has accused the United States of fabricating the conspiracy as an excuse to attack Iraq.

The White House has said it will consider military action against Iraq if Baghdad is proven to have been involved in the alleged assassination plot.

A team of U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and secret service agents who interviewed the suspects determined that they were sent by Iraq.

Twelve of the suspects, including a Kuwaiti and an Iraqi who lived in the emirate, face death by hanging if convicted.

Two Kuwaitis who hid the alleged would-be assassins, who posed as whisky smugglers, could get five years in prison if found guilty.

Four of the seven Kuwaiti lawyers appointed by the court to defend the alleged plotters refused to take the cases, saying they had moral qualms about representing suspects they considered to be enemies, or had other commitments.

It is still not clear whether the court has found replacements.

Mr. Abu Hamad told the

ing between Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran were involved in the plot.

They included Ayman Al Zawahri, Mustafa Hamza and Mohammad Shawki Al Islambuli, brother of Khaled Al Islambuli, one of the assassins of President Anwar Sadat in 1981, Gen. Alfi said.

The 30 suspects were arrested two weeks before the Eid.

"The case implicating these extremists was submitted to the prosecutor from the state security court," which is charged with preparing the case and presenting it to a military court, he said.

To speed up trials and pass harsher sentences, President Hosni Mubarak last October invoked emergency legislation in force since the Sadat assassination to decree that "terrorist" cases would be transferred from civilian to military courts, where there is no right of appeal.

Bombings carried out in Cairo by suspected fundamentalists have killed 11 people and injured more than 50 this year. In April Informaion Minister Saifat Al Sherif escaped an assassination attempt by fundamentalists.

Gen. Alfi said the leadership in-exile was issuing orders and financing Egyptian militants to carry out the attacks.

He said the money paid for every militant attack varied between \$20,000 and \$30,000 in addition to monthly fixed wages and expenses for members to buy weapons and explosives locally.

Gen. Alfi alleged the exiled militant leadership was backed by foreign forces, which he did not name. Cairo has accused Sudan and Iran and some private Gulf organisations of financing the fundamentalists.

Gen. Alfi said Egypt had tightened restrictions to control the funding of militant groups following a recent visit by President Mubarak to Gulf Arab states during which he sought their help to stop non-government charity organisations from channelling money to radical groups in Egypt.

"We started cooperating with some security networks in countries abroad — in the East and the West — and in the world. We will sign agreements with some countries to extradite terrorists," Gen. Alfi said without elaborating.



The grandmother (second right) of Turkish child Guelvestan Ozturk, who was killed in an arson attack in Germany May 29, and their relatives sit and mourn Thursday in front of their home in the village of Mercimek (AFP photo)

State funeral for arson victims

TASOVA, Turkey (AP) — Turkish and German officials called for restraint Friday at a tense state funeral for the Turkish victim of a rightist arson attack in Solingen, Germany, last week. It was the deadliest attack in a surge of neo-Nazi violence that erupted after German reunification in 1990. Unemployment and economic hardships in former East Germany have increased right-wing sentiments.

A few hundred demonstrators chanted anti-Nazi slogans and carried banners which read "Death to neo-Nazi Bastards," "Hitler's pigs," and "Kill first, apologise later."

Just before the start of the funeral, the protesters burned two Nazi flags.

German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, who headed a German delegation at the ceremony, addressed the crowd while protests echoed in the background.

Mr. Kinkel said the Germans would never forgive those responsible from the attack which

he described as a "shameful violence."

Two women and three girls died in the firebombing attack in Solingen, Germany, last week. It was the deadliest attack in a surge of neo-Nazi violence that erupted after German reunification in 1990. Unemployment and economic hardships in former East Germany have increased right-wing sentiments.

Three Turks were killed in a similar attack in the northern German City of Moelln last November.

President Suleyman Demirel, speaking at the ceremony, called for calm, saying Germans should not be held responsible for the attack.

Mr. Kinkel assured the crowd that the German government said.

would do its utmost to provide a safe life to the foreigners.

Four German suspects are under arrest in connection with the attack.

Turkey's acting Premier Erdal Inonu and seven other Turkish cabinet members were also present at the ceremony.

The mourning villagers voiced anger and despair. They said the attacks were aimed at the foreigners to scare them out of the country.

"These attacks are to open jobs for the East Germans," said Adnan Kose.

"The German welcomed those who went there 30 years ago with bands, now they are sending us back their ashes," Recep Kaymak, a relative of the victims, said.

Major's popularity nose-dives

LONDON (AP) — Conservative Party leader John Major is now the most unpopular prime minister since opinion polling began in Britain in the 1930s, according to a Gallup poll published Friday.

The poll in the pro-Conservative Daily Telegraph indicated that only one in five voters are satisfied with Mr. Major's performance.

Mr. Major brushed aside the plunging ratings and news reports that he is weary and depressed.

"I'm weary of gossip dressed up as news," said Mr. Major. "I've some bad news for people — I'm fit, I'm well, I'm here and I'm staying." He told a rally of Conservative Party women.

His speech, including warning about cuts in state expenditure and promises to resist European Community plans to regulate working hours, drew polite applause.

Mr. Major's popularity has nose-dived since he took the Conservatives to a fourth successive national election victory in April last year — mainly because Britain's longest post-war recession persisted, and the party has broken promises about not raising taxes.

On May 26 in an attempt to revive his administration's image, Mr. Major sacked his treasury chief, Chancellor of the Exchequer Norman Lamont.

But Gallup, which questioned 1,074 voters between May 26 and May 31, found that the sacking of Mr. Lamont has made no difference.

The main opposition Labour Party, with 49 per cent support, had a record 24-point lead over the Conservatives, on 25 per cent, according to Gallup.

The Conservatives were only two points ahead of Britain's third running party, the centrist Social Democrats, now eroding middle-class support in the prosperous south of England traditional Tory strongholds. The error margin in the poll was 2.5 per cent.

Just 12 per cent of voters said they were satisfied with Mr. Major's performance. He was rated equally with two other prominent politicians in his 22-member cabinet, Trade Secretary Michael Heseltine and the new chancellor of the exchequer, Kenneth Clarke, as likely to make the best prime minister.

Mr. Major's problems have been compounded by big divisions among the normally well-disciplined Conservatives over ratification of a treaty to closer European union.

Pro-democracy meeting broken up in Shanghai

BEIJING (AP) — The Chinese authorities prevented pro-democracy activists in Shanghai from commemorating the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown Friday, detaining the organiser for 24 hours and ordering him not to leave the city.

Meanwhile, at least four Shanghai activists were arrested last month as part of a crackdown on dissidents in the run-up to the crackdown's anniversary.

Zhang Xianliang, 48, a veteran pro-democracy activist, was detained Thursday, a day before he and more than 30 other dissidents planned to meet in People's Park in the heart of Shanghai, the dissident said by telephone.

Mr. Zhang was released after being held for 24 hours of questioning by policeman on the increasingly active pro-democracy movement in China's largest city.

Mr. Zhang is a veteran of the 1978 Democracy Wall movement in Beijing, during which he wrote numerous essays in favour of more democracy. He was later jailed for five years for his activities, but the dissident vowed Friday to "continue to strive for democracy" in China.

On Wednesday of last week, police arrested three other political activists who were active in an unofficial labour union set up during the 1989 protests.

Iran remembers Khomeini with fierce anti-U.S. blast

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Iranian spiritual guide Ayatollah Ali Khomeini Friday blasted the United States for its "open animosity" against Iran and vowed his country would oppose pressure by all means.

But he denied U.S. charges that his country supported fundamentalist movements around the world.

Ayatollah Khomeini was addressing special Friday prayers marking the death four years ago of the Islamic republic's founder, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

"America's animosity and opposition against us had become open and more intensified," Ayatollah Khomeini said.

The United States stepped up its opposition to Iran because "our policies are not influenced by theirs and because Tehran refused to compromise on the western-backed Shah."

He said in a sermon that the United States, which issued Iran of supporting "terrorists," was itself a sponsor of "terrorism" because of its backing for Israel which he called a "usurper and terrorist regime."

"Our nation has succeeded in frustrating the enemy despite all its plots over almost 15 years," he said.

"I tell you that you are able again to inflict absolute defeat on America and its allies in the arena of their confrontation with the Islamic Republic of Iran."

Tehran Radio said 20,000 Basiji paramilitary volunteers were employed in a huge logistical operation to house the mourners over the past week in scores of schools, mosques and other public buildings.

"Jews can remain in Palestine, but the government of Israel should be dismantled," he said at Ayatollah Khomeini's shrine.

Vast crowds of black-clad men and women packed the golden-domed shrine at Ayatollah Khomeini's tomb south of Tehran, beating their breasts in mourning.

Several thousand Muslims from other countries, especially from former Soviet republics, have gone to Iran for week-long ceremonies to honour the legacy of the stern religious and political leader who died four years ago.

Ayatollah Khomeini urged people to turn out in big numbers to vote in presidential elections,

NEWS IN BRIEF

Youth leaders of PLO, Israeli party to meet

STOCKHOLM (R) — Leaders of youth groups from the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israeli Labour Party will take part for the first time in a Middle East seminar near Stockholm this month, Swedish radio reported Thursday. It said Ofer Dekel, general secretary of the Israeli party's youth wing, would meet Samir Sbarhat, chairman of the Palestinian Student Organisation at the seminar from June 21 to 24 at Bonniersvik, a lakeside study centre near Stockholm. The Youth League of Sweden's opposition Social Democratic Party is sponsoring the talks, which Swedish radio said would be the first official talks between Israel and PLO representatives since Israel lifted a ban on such contacts in January. "We hope for a meaningful discussion as a contribution towards the Middle East peace process," said Karl-Petter Thorwaldsson, chairman of the Social Democratic youth group.

Iran's population growth rate declines

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's annual rate of population growth has dipped to 2.3 per cent due to public education and availability of birth control devices, the government said Thursday. A government study in April found the population growing at 2.3 per cent a year, down from 2.5 per cent last September and a revised 2.7 per cent from a census in September 1991, Vice-President Hassan Habibi said on Iranian television. Iran, which has 57.8 million people according to the 1991 census, has stepped up birth control programmes in recent years despite some opposition by traditionalist Muslim clerics. The country in the 1980s had an annual population growth rate above three per cent, among the highest in the Middle East. Parliament passed a law last month aimed at limiting families to three children. It cut benefits like insurance and maternity leave for the fourth and subsequent children.

Algeria concerned at French immigration moves

PARIS (R) — Algeria's ambassador to Paris has said that French government plans to clamp down on immigration were alarming millions of young Algerians and gave the impression France was blaming its woes on outsiders. "The Algerian community has felt very strong pressure for the last two or three months," Ambassador Ahmad Ghazali told reporters. "Young people are very anxious. Three million people are worrying." He was speaking the day after France's new conservative cabinet approved measures to tighten the control and availability of residency papers, ease up the procedure for expulsions and make it harder for foreigners to marry or bring their families to France. Immigration was one of the key issues which won the centre-right a landslide victory over the outgoing socialists in March's French parliamentary elections. New Interior Minister Charles Pasqua is a renowned hardliner who said this week his aim was to stop the flow of immigrants to France completely.

Tunisia sends aid to occupied territories

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia sent a ship carrying humanitarian aid to Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories on Thursday, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat told reporters. He made the announcement after meeting Tunisian President Zine Abidine Ben Ali. Tunisian officials gave no details of the aid but said it would be shipped to the U.N. agency in charge of helping Palestinian refugees.

Swedish parliament appeals to Saddam

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Parliament leaders sent a letter Thursday to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, appealing for the release of three Swedish engineers imprisoned nine months ago for illegally crossing the border from Kuwait. The engineers, setting up a telephone network, said they had strayed across the unmarked border by accident. They were sentenced to seven years in prison by an Iraqi court last September. "A positive message from the president would make it possible for the three Swedes to be reunited with their families and friends," said the letter to President Saddam. Iraq's Foreign Minister Mohammad Said Al Sahafi said in a Swedish television interview broadcast Wednesday night that more humanitarian aid to Iraq would win the Swedes' release.

Kurdish rebels kill seven in Turkey

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (R) — Turkish officials said Thursday that Kurdish rebels killed seven people including a mother and her two children in three separate incidents in eastern and southeastern Turkey Wednesday. Two guerrillas of the banned Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) were also killed, they said. The mother and her children were killed when about 40 PKK guerrillas raided Selvi village in Bingol province on Wednesday night, they said. Four guards and another woman were wounded. Five people — four village guards and one PKK member — were killed in a clash in Cevrek village in Hakkari province near the Iranian border. Twenty villagers were wounded. In the third incident, the PKK raided Sucat village in Mardin province and kidnapped three women. One guerrilla was killed in a clash with security forces.

Australian civil servant charged with espionage

CANBERRA (AP) — A public servant believed to have been a former Soviet spy working for years inside Australia's intelligence agency appeared in court here Friday on 22 charges of espionage, sources in the capital Canberra said. His arrest followed an intensive investigation by officers of the Australian federal police and the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO), according to a joint statement by Attorney General Michael Lavarch and Justice Minister Duncan Kerr. The 22 charges relate to the alleged removal of classified documents from the ASIO, the statement said. Information suppressed by the Canberra magistrate included the person's identity and other personal details, but sources told AFP the accused is an Australian public servant who is believed to have worked for the former Soviet Union over a period of years.

Israeli police seek former banker's arrest

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli police are seeking the arrest abroad of Ernst Japeth, former chairman of Bank Leumi, in connection with a 1983 banking scandal that cost the government more than \$9 million, Israeli Radio said Friday. Mr. Japeth, 72,